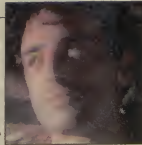


**A lot of hype about nothing?**  
*'Queer as Folk' reneges on promise to be groundbreaking, says Dale Carpenter.*  
**page 11**

**He's baaaaaaack...**  
*Mike Marshall hired to lead LGBT Center, raise money.*  
**page 14**



**Boys in shorts**  
*'Boys Life 3' collection at the Castro.*  
**see Arts section**



# BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 50 • 14 December 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## Bail hearing Friday for Rosenkrantz

by Ed Walsh

After spending 15 years behind bars for killing his basher, gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz could be freed as early as next week.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Kathryn Ann Stoltz has scheduled a bail hearing for Rosenkrantz on Friday, December 15. A hearing to decide whether to permanently free Rosenkrantz on parole is scheduled for January 18.

The state is expected to strongly oppose both Rosenkrantz's release on bail and his permanent parole. In her order announcing Friday's bail hearing, Stoltz wrote that if bail is granted, Rosenkrantz would not be released for five working days in order to give the state time to appeal.

Rosenkrantz's fight for parole has been tied up in the courts for more than a year. Stoltz first ordered him paroled last year but her order was later blocked by Governor Gray Davis.

Stoltz countered Davis's veto by ordering that the parole board hold another hearing for Rosenkrantz, find him suitable for parole, and set a release date. The board reluctantly ordered parole for Rosenkrantz at a June 30 hearing but Davis again blocked it in October, on the last day of his deadline to do so. If Davis had done nothing, Rosenkrantz would have been freed in October.

Davis once vowed to veto the parole of all convicted murderers, but he recently approved the parole of Rose Ann Parker who was convicted of second-degree murder for killing her abusive boyfriend. Parker was freed last week after spending 15 years in prison.

The state attorney general's office, acting on behalf of the Davis-appointed Board of Prison Terms, has tried unsuccessfully to get Stoltz removed from the case. Last month, Stoltz deferred the case to the Court of Appeals but the higher court kicked it back to her.

Last April, the three-judge panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeals strongly affirmed Stoltz's opinion that Rosenkrantz was denied due process and was unjustly denied parole. After losing in two courts, the state appealed Rosenkrantz's parole to the California Supreme Court but the high court refused to hear the case.

Rosenkrantz was 18 in 1985 and had just graduated from high school when he was attacked and outed by a former classmate, Steve Redman. Rosenkrantz later confronted Redman with an Uzi and demanded he recant his outing. The pair argued and Rosenkrantz opened fire, shooting Redman 10 times.

Rosenkrantz eventually turned himself in and was convicted of second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 17-years-to-life and has been eligible for parole since 1996. ▼

## Washington political outlook

by Bob Roehr

The fear and loathing that many gay political organizations expressed during the fall election campaign has mellowed into a cautiously optimistic view of what may occur in Washington over the next two years, should George W. Bush prevail.

Rich Tafel is executive director of Log Cabin Republicans, which endorsed Bush. He wanted to "downplay any expectations" of a Bush administration, as well as the fears.

Tafel believes that conservatives are going to put a lot of demands on Bush but that "his instinct is not to go in that direction." The thin Republican edge in the House and virtual power sharing in the Senate will reinforce that. "The message from the election is that moderation works."

Perhaps the most encouraging sign in this delayed transition, for Tafel, is that Andrew Card has been appointed Bush's White House chief of staff. Card is a Massachusetts Republican in the mold of gay-friendly former Governor William Weld.



Log Cabin's Rich Tafel

Dick Cheney has "a sensibility about homosexuality," said Tafel. That was evident in his support of his congressional aide and later Defense Department spokesman Pete Williams, when he was "outed" as gay while Cheney was defense secretary. He also told Congress that being gay did not make one a security risk.

The fact that his daughter Mary has since come out as a lesbian has only deepened that sensibility. "It is not something that he is ever going to wear on his sleeve, but he isn't going to take kindly to any kind of anti-gay anything," said Tafel. He cited Cheney's linking of religious right icon Gary Bauer and the Human Rights Campaign for both attacking his daughter this summer.

Nancy Buermeyer, a lobbyist with HRC, said, "There is an enormous amount that a president can do that doesn't necessarily make the headlines." Those include executive orders, regulations, and inclusive interpretations of existing procedures. Lower level political appointees can be crucial in making these types of decisions.

She said that they would not



HRC's Nancy Buermeyer

Times noted in an article last summer, the appointments that Bush made to fill vacancies in the Texas judiciary brought that body back toward the political center. Buermeyer is taking a wait and see attitude.



ACLU's Christopher Anders

have the same access to these people to educate them on gay issues in a Bush administration, and feared that some of the appointees would have strong ties to the religious right.

Judicial appointments are a continuing concern. It may be that the closeness of the election results will push Bush to make centrist nominations. That would not be out of character. As the New York

"The real unknown is what the administration will look like," said Christopher Anders, a lobbyist on gay and lesbian issues with the American Civil Liberties Union. He said it seems like there is a bit of a split among those close to Bush. "Ironically, it is the Austin [Texas] people who are the moderates and the Washington people are the hard liners."

Anders does not

believe that there will be a rollback of the 1998 presidential executive order on sexual orientation in federal employment. The fact that conservatives tried to overturn it in the House, and lost by a margin of 76 votes "basically put a little bit of Congress' imprimatur on it."

Bush told a group of gay Republicans at an April meeting in Austin, Texas, that he would not seek to change the executive order, said Tafel. For Anders, Bush does not want to be seen as anti-gay "out of concern of losing the votes of our parents, and family, and

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## Helter shelter

### No Castro housing for LGBTQQ young adults till next year

by Terry Beswick

Some say there are more homeless youth in the Castro now than there were just a few months ago. Others suggest the number actually fluctuates only slightly from one night to the next, and as the weather gets colder and wetter, people are more likely to notice the outstretched hands of the many queer young people huddled together for warmth in door-

ways and under trees.

But regardless of their number on an average night, the young and the homeless are undeniably in our relatively affluent midst this holiday season.

"We've definitely seen an increase in the last month or so," said Brian Cheu, executive director of the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center on Collingwood Street.

The difference this winter is that for the first time in three years the city is offering no shelter program to provide emergency housing to any of the Castro's homeless lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgen-

der, queer, and questioning young people.

After nearly a year and half of struggle and negotiation with Castro neighbors over a new transitional housing facility for LGBTQQ young adults between the ages of 18 and 24, the San Francisco Department of Public Health has acknowledged that the program will not be operational until after the holidays.

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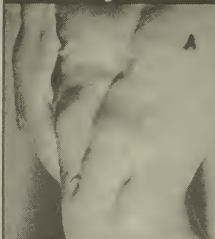


The shelter program at 2500 Market should open in January.

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# Left back

## Independents re-capture the Board of Supes

by Katie Szymanski

Well, they did it. Despite all the big money behind Mayor Willie Brown's candidates for supervisor, progressive independents stole the show on Tuesday, December 12, winning the runoff elections overwhelmingly and delivering a message that the people of San Francisco have had enough.

Voter turnout was estimated at about 30 percent, compared to 66.6 percent in the general election November 7.

In every race in each of the nine districts up for grabs, mayoral-backed candidates were stunned by some close races and devastating defeat. As its stands, the future looks clear: say goodbye to Supervisors Michael Yaki, Amos Brown, and Mabel Teng, welcome back Supervisors Leland Yee, Mark Leno, Tom Ammiano, and Gavin Newsom, and get ready for a whole new crop of supervisors who won against all odds. Ammiano and Newsom each avoided runoffs by winning outright in their districts last month.

District 1 saw Yaki, with 47 percent of the vote, go down in defeat to teacher and activist Jake McGoldrick, who won 53 percent of the vote. McGoldrick was an author of Proposition L, the slow-growth initiative that was narrowly defeated by absentee ballots in November.

District 3 ushered in environmentalist Aaron Peskin with 59.6 percent of the vote, beating the openly gay college board member Lawrence Wong, who garnered just 40.4 percent.

In District 4, Yee held onto his seat with 55.8 percent of the vote against challenger John Shanley, who came in with 44.2 percent.

District 5 residents, perhaps



Mark Leno celebrates his victory with supporters Tuesday night.



Supervisor-elect Matt Gonzalez at his victory celebration.

the most liberal in the city, overwhelmingly went for deputy public defender Matt Gonzalez, giving

him 66.1 percent of the vote. Challenger Juanita Owens, a lesbian and City College dean, got just 33.9 percent of the vote; Owens, a member of the Board of Education until her term expires next month, had originally campaigned with Willie Brown's photograph but later cropped him out and declared herself "the only Democrat" in the district. Gonzalez, an otherwise lifelong Democrat, switched to the Green Party last month when he became disillusioned by the Democrats' exclusion of lefty issues.

District 6 was again seen as a big "no" to Brown's attempt to keep his board majority when the openly gay Chris Dittenhafer, a bank manager who moved to the district at the last minute to run for office, captured just 18.8 percent of the vote. Front-runner Chris Daly, a housing advocate, drew 81.2 percent of the vote.

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Chris Daly hugs a supporter after winning in District 6.



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Photo supplied by Hot House Entertainment



# Lawsuit against SFFD moves forward

by Katie Szymanski

The San Francisco Fire Department may soon be busy trying to quell an explosion of its own.

The deposition of a firefighter accused of launching a verbal and physical assault upon a gay man was completed on November 29, according to Waukeen McCoy, the attorney for the alleged victim. The case, filed in the United States District Court of Northern California, failed to reach a settlement on December 6 and will now enter the discovery phase. The lawsuit seeks general and punitive damages on the basis that the firefighter violated the victim's civil rights in direct opposition to state law prohibiting discriminatory and/or violent acts on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation.

According to the lawsuit, the SFFD responded to a report of a water main burst on March 30, 1999, at a Market Street apartment building. Firefighter Jack Walker was having difficulty accessing a neighboring building, and Dennis Bower, a local resident, asked him if he needed any help.



Attorney Waukeen McCoy

"Why don't you get away from me you fucking faggot," was Walker's alleged response.

Bower then went into the building to see if he could assist other firefighters inside, then exited again, this time making eye contact with Walker, who was sitting behind the wheel of the fire truck.

"Walker promptly made an obscene gesture," according to the lawsuit. "Plaintiff then threw his hands

up in disgust. At that point, Walker bolted from the cab of the truck, slammed plaintiff against a wall, and punched him in the eye. Walker was pulled from plaintiff by three or four other firefighters. As he was pulled away, Walker screamed, 'Let me at the little queer.'"

While much of the evidence still has to be collected, McCoy said he is hopeful his client will prevail.

"In my deposition of the accused firefighter, he admitted to having gone through 96 hours of anger management classes for other incidents. He confirmed he had used the word 'queer' before. And he admitted to shoving my client, although he denied hitting him in the face."

McCoy said that Walker had also been instructed not to answer any questions about previous battery charges, previous arrests, and discipline while on the job.

"I hope to get an order to secure that information," said McCoy. "On the day in question, this firefighter acted like a renegade. His duty is to protect members of public, but his behavior opposed that principle. That he's still working in the same station serving the neighborhood where my client lives is ridiculous."

The city attorney's office, which is representing the fire department in the matter, failed to respond to phone calls from the *Bay Area Reporter* by press time. ▼

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## Mayor closes HIV rate meeting to public

by Terry Beswick

Coming up with a reasonable estimate of how many new HIV infections are taking place in San Francisco each year seems to have become a political hot potato for the city's Department of Public Health and the University of California, San Francisco's AIDS Research Institute.

Although DPH and ARI co-hosted a secret meeting on the subject last May, resulting in the controversial proposal that between 750 and 900 people were likely to be infected with HIV in the city this year – an increase of at least 50 percent over a previous estimate – the meeting was considered preliminary, a fact that was largely overlooked when the story made international headlines after being leaked to the news media in late June.

Initially, a second and final

"consensus meeting" was scheduled in October. It was to be convened by DPH and UCSF to re-

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## BAY AREA REPORTER

### HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming Holidays, The **BAY AREA REPORTER** will have slightly altered deadlines. Please make a note of the following:

Issue #52

Street Date: December 28th

All Classified/Personals/Display ads:

ALL ads MUST be turned in  
**NO LATER THAN FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 22nd AT 12:00 PM.**

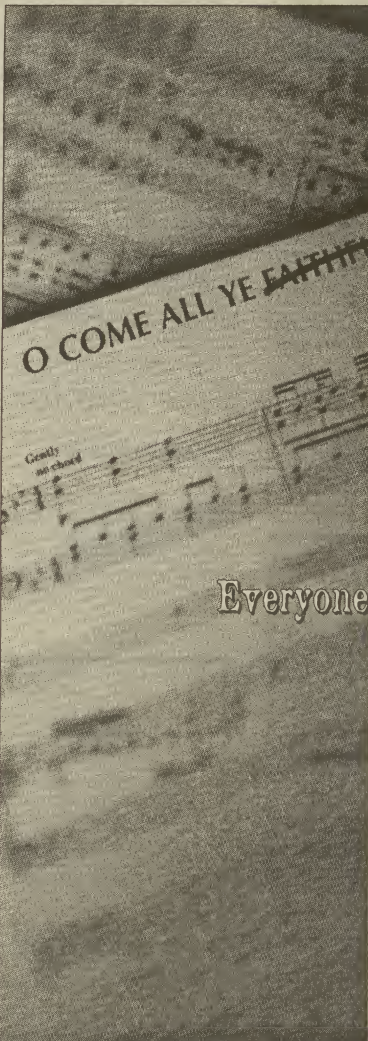
Issue #01

Street Date: January 4th

All Classified/Personals/Display ads:

ALL ads MUST be turned in  
**NO LATER THAN FRIDAY,  
DECEMBER 29th AT 12:00 PM.**

Additionally, The **BAY AREA REPORTER** offices will be closed on December 25th, 2000 and January 1, 2001.



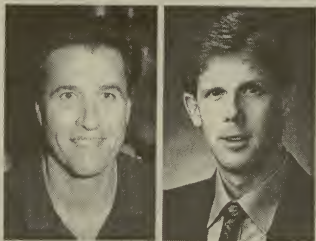
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Feast of the Epiphany Sunday, January 7th at 11am



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She studied piano and composition at the New England Conservatory of Music, at California Institute of the Arts, received her Master's Degree in music composition from Mills College.

She will be joined by Kathryn Sugden on violin and Randy Fromme on cello for the concert.

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## The checks have arrived



Over \$60,000 that was raised at this year's Castro Street Fair was distributed to a variety of community nonprofit organizations by the fair organizers last Thursday, December 7, as recipients happily wave their checks at the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro meeting. About 26 local agencies received the much-needed funds.

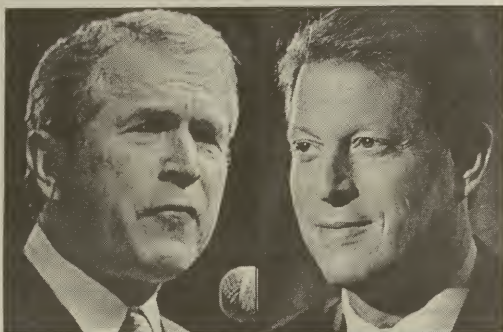
## Court rules for Bush, Gore said to withdraw

by Bob Roehr

Americans were looking to the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve the confusion and bring closure to the 2000 presidential election. Late on Tuesday, December 12, the court delivered a muddled series of six separate opinions totaling 65 pages.

The practical effect was to reinforce the fact that George W. Bush led the Florida vote on election night, and with it a majority of electoral votes necessary to become the next president of the United States. Nothing that has transpired in multiple courtrooms in Florida, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C. over the last month has changed that fact.

At press time, Vice President Al Gore had asked his legal team to cease their efforts and planned to address the nation on the evening of December 13. It is believed that he will withdraw from the election



George W. Bush and Al Gore

contest. The Bush campaign has indicated that the governor will not speak until some point after Gore's address.

In an unsigned decision, seven members of the court found "constitutional problems with the recount ordered by the Florida

Supreme Court that demand a remedy." The lack of standards in the hand recount, and testimony that varying standards were used to hand count ballots, both between and within counties, were violations of equal protection

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## Free immigration clinic offered Tuesday

by Katie Szymanski

Whether you're living in fear, can't find a job, or are tired of existing week-to-week, LGBT immigrants are invited to check out a free legal clinic this Tuesday, December 19, at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, from 6-9 p.m.

Immigration can be a sticky situation for anyone, and gay and lesbian immigrants, unlike their heterosexual counterparts, cannot seek United States citizenship through marriage. There are other avenues, of course, from "heterosexual" unions of convenience, to seeking asylum due to sexuality-based persecution in your country of origin. The legal clinic — sponsored by

the SF/Bay Area Lesbian and Gay Immigration and Asylum Rights Task Force — will address these topics and more; interested people are asked to call (415) 392-6257 to make an appointment for private consultation with an immigration attorney. The clinic will be held at NCLR's headquarters, 870 Market Street, Suite 570, in San Francisco. ▼

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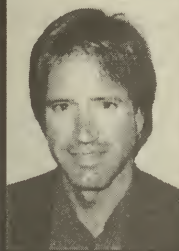
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If you would like to join us in this effort, or think you may someday be interested in buying the unit you live in, please clip and mail back the response card below. We will keep you informed about these and other issues that affect all of us. We look forward to listening to other voices for reasonable change.

Together we can open the door to homeownership opportunities for thousands of San Franciscans who otherwise would never qualify in today's market. While the challenges are great, the rewards are even greater.

All the best,

Bartholomew Murphy  
President,  
Coalition For Better Housing



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## OPEN FORUM

## An end at last

As you read this today, Vice President Al Gore will have likely ended his bid for the presidency and conceded the bitterly contested 2000 election to Texas Governor George W. Bush. Tuesday night's historic decision by the U.S. Supreme Court has cleared the way for Bush to become the nation's 43rd president, though by a slim 5-4 margin.

It's not surprising that the conservative majority of the court effectively blocked the Florida recount (the five justices making up the majority signaled their intent with last Saturday's emergency stay that abruptly halted the recount approved by the Florida Supreme Court last Friday). What is troublesome about the court's ruling, however, is that the conservative justices, known for deferring to states' rights in such cases, swung the opposite way and intervened in what was clearly a state issue — the ability to get an accurate and fair recount of the Florida ballots. The court has demonstrated that it is not above partisan politics, just like the legislative and executive branches of government. Several of the dissenting members strongly disagreed with the majority and said the high court should have never taken the case. "The position by the majority of this court can only lend credence to the most cynical appraisal of the work of judges throughout the land," wrote Justice John Paul Stevens in his scathing dissent.

As a result, the recount in Florida was ruled unconstitutional and the justices ruled that time for a recount had effectively run out for Gore. In determining that the equal protection clause of the Constitution had been violated by the Florida recount — that is, there were no uniform standards in place — the court agreed by a 7-2 margin. Justices Stevens and Ruth Bader Ginsburg dissented on that decision, and were confident that such uniform standards could be devised and that a recount could be completed by December 18, when the Electoral College formally meets. The court's majority, however, established December 12 as the cutoff date, and since it issued its ruling at 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the 12th, it quickly became evident that Gore's fight had ended.

In the aftermath of this year's marathon election, we hope counties and states will carefully examine their election procedures. Everything from the type and design of the ballot to what constitutes a valid vote should be thoroughly debated; and where appropriate, legislation should be enacted to ensure that in the next presidential election, every effort is made to count every vote ac-

curately and fairly.

Now it is up to Gore and Bush to work to unify the country, which is evenly divided in what was the closest presidential election in over 100 years. Gore won the national popular vote by some 300,000 ballots, and there will probably always be lingering questions about which candidate really won in Florida.

During the campaign, Bush claimed that he was a "unifier, not a divider"; now he will have an opportunity to prove it. One of the first things he needs to do is meet with African American leaders. Bush lost the African American vote by about 9-1, according to the *Washington Post*, and that community encountered much difficulty in parts of Florida on Election Day. There have been reports of intimidation by law enforcement personnel, and polling workers who denied some African Americans the right to vote even though they were legally registered.

Another thing Bush should do is meet with congressional leaders of both parties, so that next year, work can begin on several important issues that were debated during the campaign. It is clear that with Republicans holding a slight edge in the House and with a 50-50 tie in the Senate, bipartisanship will be necessary in order to accomplish anything. Bush may not get all of his leg-

islative proposals passed, but there should be room to compromise and succeed on issues such as Social Security reform and prescription drug coverage for seniors.

Democrats, meanwhile, have a chance to regroup and prepare candidates for the 2002 congressional races so that they can retake the House of Representatives and break the deadlock in the Senate.

As for the future of equal rights for gays and lesbians, well, we don't foresee much hope for progress at the federal level. While Bush met with gay

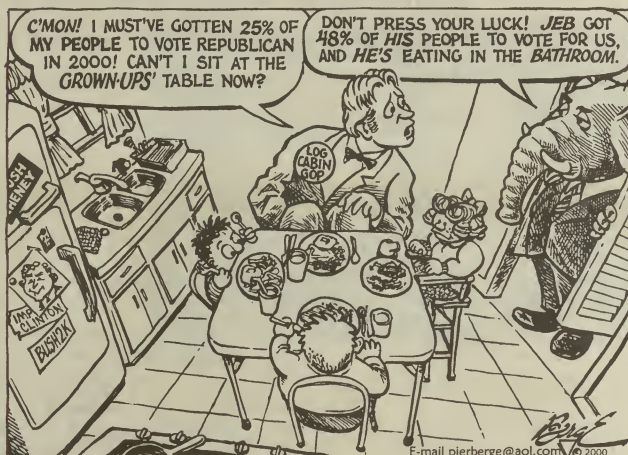
Republicans earlier this year, he certainly hasn't made equal rights for gays a central campaign theme and it's doubtful that there will be openly gay and

lesbian appointments in the Bush administration. It's also clear that Bush won with the help of the religious right; and while that group was largely silent during the campaign in order not to turn off more moderate voters, it's likely the Christian conservatives will be knocking on the White House door looking to implement their right wing and discriminatory measures, particularly over the issues of abortion and gay rights.

If Bush is truly the "unifier" he claims to be, we hope that he will be able to listen to all sides of the issues and to resist the urge to further divide the country. It's going to be a tall order for him to fill. ▼



Editorial



E-mail pierberge@aol.com © 2000

## Alone for the holidays

by David Ortmann

What are you doing for the holidays? People always ask.

When I tell them I am spending it alone, they look at me like I just sodomized a toddler on their antique Persian carpet.

And then they invite me to dinner!

I have over 10 dinner invitations, four brunches, two potlucks, a spa weekend offer, and it's not even December 15 yet. Anything people can do to insure that I'm not spending the holidays alone, they've done.

Last Christmas, at my parent's house, with a Willie Brown smile shellacked to my face; I hugged and shook hands with an endless parade of people, most of whom I couldn't remember meeting. I felt like a bride at a bad wedding — a bride without the dress. One particular woman started laughing when she saw me. She had to be 80 years old. I said hello and wished her the best of the holiday season, but she just kept giggling. Finally, her husband intervened.

"You see, my wife hasn't seen you since you were four."

"No, Herbert, let me explain," the woman said, regaining composure. "I haven't seen you since Christmas of 1974 and, oh my word, I am blushing so! You kept taking your penis out of your pants and showing it to me. 'This is my penis' you would say. You seemed so proud of it. Oh,

God, and here you are now, a grown man. I'm just so embarrassed!"

What does one say to something like this?

"Well, I promise I won't show you my penis tonight, unless you ask really nicely." I winked at her and she laughed so hard she almost went into cardiac arrest right there in front of me.

So this year, I am going to stay in San Francisco. Not lonely, just alone.

With apologies to Garbo, the truth is I want to be alone. I love my family. They are nurturing and supportive and I can't wait to celebrate the holidays with them — in March, when all the holiday fast paced, buy-it-now-before-it's-too-late craziness has died down.

I remember the last holiday season I spent alone, which was more or less thrust upon me. It was 1992 and, freshly returned from a teaching gig in Europe, I was 22, poor, alone, and newly out to my family as gay. I was slaving at Bloomingdale's department store schlepping clothing I'd never be able to afford at my \$6 per hour pay rate. Homeless, I was couch-surfing with various friends until I saved enough money to get my own apartment. My boyfriend at the time was home with his family, as were all my friends. I had no home, no lover, and no money.

Unhappy and alone, I filled that holiday

season with volunteer work, church work, homeless outreach, soup kitchen support, and warm clothing drives. In the end, I think this vegetarian fag pulled apart over 30 turkeys! The work gave me purpose, filled the hours, and showed me that my own perceived misfortunes were much less than so many others were.

Happy and alone in 2000, I don't think I'll fight to fill every waking moment of this holiday season with activity. I may pick up that book that's been gathering dust on my bedside table, the one I've been telling myself I am too busy to read. Maybe I'll go for that hike up to Corona Heights that I've been meaning to do for years now and then take a bath using my roommate's sweet-smelling foot scrub.

I might go have a pint of beer at a pub down the street and buy a drink for someone. Maybe I'll fix myself my favorite dinner and bring half of it to the schizophrenic guy that sleeps on my apartment steps in the colder months. I may actually discover that I enjoy my own company. Then I can sit quietly and think of all the things I have to be grateful for, and there is so much. I realize that I might need more than just one holiday season to think of it all. ▼

## Guest Opinion

David Ortmann in a writer and therapist who lives in San Francisco.



## LETTERS

## ACT UP/SF's hypocrisy

Many local small businesses who donate to our annual World AIDS Day raffle have asked us to respond to your recent stories on the group of people calling themselves ACT UP/San Francisco.

B.A.R. readers should know that ACT UP/San Francisco has been disavowed and disowned by the AC UP network comprised of chapters in Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C., Paris, the East Bay, Cleveland, Boston, Los Angeles, and Survive AIDS (formerly ACT UP/Golden Gate). We work closely with Doctors Without Borders, Consumer Project on Technology (a Nader offshoot), South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, HealthGAP (Global Action Campaign), and the California Nurses Association, among others.

We all believe that HIV is, at the very least, a major co-factor causing AIDS, and that AIDS is a global catastrophe. We also believe that all HIV infected individuals should have access to treatments currently available only in industrialized countries.

ACT UP/SF has usurped our name, damaged our credibility and hurt many HIV infected people with their messianic misinformation campaign, "HIV does not cause AIDS, AIDS is over." Their sheer hypocrisy is demonstrated by their \$1.6 million annual business of selling medical marijuana to people with a "harmless" virus. If they argue that this is alternative treatment, why did they campaign to stop federal funding to other treatments such as acupuncture, vitamins, and Chinese herbs?

Their radical pretense is undermined by the fact that conservative Republican venture capitalist Robert Leppo underwrote the purchase of their building. While many nonprofits are feeling the dot-com pinch, ACT UP/SF thrives with their lucrative pot business and Republican backers. Even more than the flawed AIDS agencies they criticize, ACT UP/SFers are lining their pockets on people's suffering.

It's an easy route. If AIDS is over one need not campaign for needle exchange funding, condoms in schools, or better medical care. One need not challenge pharmaceutical companies' profits and patents to make treatments available to all who want them. ACT UP/SF would deny people in Africa even the option of taking what they say are "toxic" treatments.

Through the media and people they've come in contact with personally, ACT UP/SF has been successful in portraying political activism as loony cartoon caricature. A CIA disinformation campaign couldn't do better a better job of alienating or disheartening people.

Global catastrophes, such as the Holocaust and AIDS, elicit different reactions from different people. Denial, guilt, and misplaced anger are three reactions I see demonstrated by ACT UP/SF.

Check out [www.healthgap.org](http://www.healthgap.org), [www.actupny.org](http://www.actupny.org) or Doctors Without Borders ([www.msf.org](http://www.msf.org)) for truly credible responses to the global AIDS epidemic.

John Iversen, Co-founder Act Up/East Bay and Berkeley Needle Exchange

## Shove that camera up yours, faggot

After a bystander videotaped police beating Rodney King, many citizens realized photographic observation might encourage police to reduce their violence. So freedom-lovers asked the California Legislature to enact a state law that would spell out, in lay person's English, everyone's right to photograph police activity in public, at least within the bounds of safety.

Oh no, replied the solons soothingly, that's not needed, because one already has that right, from our state and federal constitutions.

Yeah, sure. Just try explaining constitutional theories of civil liberty to an armed straight man who thinks he is the law. Or even to a female or queer cop. On December 6, around 1:45 in the afternoon, on Taylor near Eddy, in San Francisco's Tenderloin, I noticed a uniformed male SFPD officer searching two male suspects. Being an ACLU member, I watched from a respectful distance.

When the officer saw me and my small camera, he yelled at me. After he finished searching the suspects, he strode directly toward me, in a threatening manner. So I took his picture, to record his badge number. He said, "Shove that camera up your ass, faggot."

Did he think I would feel intimidated by being identified as a "faggot"? Rather, I consider it an honor to be classed with Alfred Kinsey, Bayard Rustin, and Allen Ginsberg.

I don't plan to reveal his identity, because I consider him representative of police culture, even here in "Liberalia." Police departments dislike cameras, because they fear effective public scrutiny of police behavior. Verbal complaints by mere civilians are easily ignored. Yet even biased people tend to believe what they see.

Years after Rodney King's unearned fame, California still needs a photographic sunshine statute.

Tortuga Bi Liberty  
San Francisco

## No obit for young man

"I knew him, and he was bright, charming and resilient. He was wonderfully generous and a bright spirit." Thus spoke Mark Leno of the late Curtis Oliver Jr. The MCC church told of his services as a chorister and sign language translator. MCC paid for his cremation. How very odd that they did not place an obituary in the B.A.R. that provides that service free for the gay community. Perhaps they were all simply paralyzed with grief. And, if you believe that, I have a bridge in Brooklyn I'd like to sell you.

Kenneth J. Miller  
San Francisco

## Thanks for story

I wanted to let you know what an astoundingly successful event our recent training and education fair for HIV-positive people was, and how truly grateful I am that you gave it such incredible visibility ("PWAs invited to job training fair Wed.," November 30). For us, an especially well-attended event may attract 20 to 30 people. Just counting those who actually signed in, we had 66 people attend. It was absolutely thrilling and deeply gratifying to have great information connected to so many people who may benefit from it. I am certain that that large of a response was directly a result of your lining Katie Szymanski up to write about the event.

The work you do is tremendously and uniquely important in our community.

Mark Misrok  
Employment Services Program Coordinator  
Positive Resource Center

## Alice meeting explained

Reading Eric Bernier's letter last month, we are writing to correct the inaccuracies and to respond to some of his observations of our Alice B. Toklas Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club July meeting. First, our regular monthly meetings are open to the public whether they be in a restaurant or in a meeting room or in a hallway - which we have had to do in the past due to the lack of affordable meeting spaces in the city.

Second, Mr. Bernier's partner, Gary Virginia, was informed by e-mail about the nature of this meeting - an early endorsement for queer elected officials with legislative experience. There was an interest in doing this because these community leaders have demonstrated an ability to get things done for our community and for our city, they were all members of Alice, and they have all had some kind of contact with our club in the past year discussing issues, constituent concerns and ideas.

Gary Virginia presented his platform at the meeting. He spoke about his campaign. He also stated he knew very little about the political organizations in SF to contact for his bid for supervisor. That didn't go very well with the members.

The LGBT political power is the strongest and most diverse it has ever been in San Francisco. It may be a surprise to Mr. Bernier, but it is no surprise to us that there are lively discussions at San Francisco political meetings. Our meetings are no different, especially when the discussion turns to the endorsements of candidates.

However, regarding the Tom Ammann endorsement discussion referenced by Bernier at our meeting, it took the club leadership standing up and reminding our members that we, as a responsible community, need to make decisions based on the issues and on the ability of our leaders to represent our community fairly. Not on the basis of who has endorsed whom in past elections.

Some individuals in Alice have personal bones to pick with this supervisor but few could say he has not done a great service to our LGBT community and to the development of queer power in San Francisco or that he is not a leader in his own right.

The same applies to Supervisor Mark Leno, our endorsed candidate in District 8. Supervisor Leno created the first-ever Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, has been the lead on the Board of Supervisors to create more affordable housing, and has been fighting oversized development and to protect the character of the district. Our membership has been extremely supportive of Mark Leno for his community work before he became an elected official and in his tenure at City Hall. He has always demonstrated leadership, compassion and a tireless work ethic.

We have nothing to hide about our discussions that take place at Alice meetings. In fact, many of our members have been active with other queer political groups where dissent is not welcome and their opinions shut out. We are proud of the work that has gone into building this club so that our members feel empowered to bring up dissenting view points and that discussions are welcome at our meetings.

Though there seems to be very vocal dissenters to queer power in San Francisco, from our own queer community and from the homophobic sector of the

next page ►

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◀ previous page

straight community pushing to regain what they see as lost power, we have proven queer leadership on the Board of Supervisors.

It takes leadership to remind our queer supporters and voters in San Francisco about the work of our LGBT leaders and why we should not be making decisions based on vindictiveness and spite, but on the merits of our queer leaders and the work they have done to create the power base we now enjoy.

It is the leadership of many of our queer leaders like Assemblywoman Carole Migden and Supervisor Mark Leno who have paved the way for us.

Esther Lee and Dean Goodwin, Co-Chairs  
Alice B. Toklas Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club

**Shanti program needed**

Attention Shanti activities program clients and all concerned others: the Shanti activities program has fallen on hard times. Not that long ago it was helmed by a full-time staff person; more recently Ray headed it up on a part-time basis. He has recently resigned. I have gone to many wonderful events because of activities; the beauty of it has been not simply free tickets but a surefire way to get me out in the world. My union organizer friend always says that you cannot get something back once it's taken away.

Please tell Shanti how important the activities program is; it cannot be a moneymaker and my understanding is that the agency is not directing volunteers to the program.

Leonard Maran  
San Francisco

**Democracy: Version 2000**

Leaders in the United States often claim that we have the best democracy because we were the first modern nation to adopt it. However, in democracy, as with software, the first version is usually not the best version. The continuing saga in Florida highlights the ways in which we do not yet have a fully functioning democracy. Other countries that have been inspired by the United States to create electoral democracies have learned important lessons and made improvements over the years — improvements we should follow.

Locally here in Oakland, we took an important step this November by passing the League of Women Voters' Measure I to guarantee the voters of Oakland the right to choose council members to fill vacancies. Meanwhile, at the Alameda County level, vacant seats are still filled by appointment, not by election, leaving the will of the voters silent — an omission that should be corrected.

Nationally, it is time to get rid of the Electoral College. It is inappropriate, and should be unconstitutional, to have a system in which someone can be elected president by an arcane system, designed for pre-telephone times, despite losing the popular vote. Second, it is time to elect federal offices by instant runoff voting (IRV) — also known as "ranked" or "preference" voting. Under such systems, voters get to number their choices (first choice, second choice). Under our current system, the principle of majority rule is violated, because the candidate who gets the most votes wins, even if they receive far less than 50 percent of the vote. Under IRV, if no one wins a majority on first choice ballots, then second choices are used to determine the outcome. This system lets everyone vote for the candidate they actually want, and ensures that the person who gets the presidency does so with the support of the majority of voters — and thus, fulfills the real vision of democracy.

Over the long run, we should study using the systems of other countries, such as proportional representation, that guarantee a voice in the government for everyone. (Right now, a party that gets 49 percent of the votes nationwide might get 0 percent of the seats in our government. Under a European-style system, the party that got 49 percent of the votes would get 49 percent of the representatives.)

We need to bring greater attention to the other Florida scandal — the intentional disenfranchisement of the African American community. There is ample evidence that police in Florida worked actively to prevent black voters from making it to the polls, using intimidation, roadblocks, and illegally demanding two forms of identification. Our nation has a long and disreputable history of denying the right to vote to people of color that continues to this day. This injustice deserves at least as much attention as the much-debated problem of dimpled chads.

Meanwhile, the work to enact meaningful campaign finance reform will continue, as more and more people demand that politicians not be for sale to the highest bidder. There are increasing concerns about corruption and backroom deals which occur when candidates receive vast campaign contributions from the same companies that they give contracts to. We need to speak out in support of fair elections, including the counting of every vote, and a financing system

that avoids corruption.

The ideal of a system in which leaders are chosen in free, open elections by the will of the people is a goal worth striving for. The current challenges we face should be a call to action to fulfill these ideals.

Rebecca Kaplan  
Oakland, California

**Liked dance program**

As a dance fan and supporter I am appalled that your publication allows reporter Aimée Ts'ao to be so hurtful in her reviews. I am referring to the Lawrence Pech dance review published in the November 15 issue ["High Pech"]. I saw the show and was completely thrilled to see the efforts of Mr. Pech and his ensemble. There was humor, high drama, live music, daring dance phrasing, and a wonderful sense of innovation from these three choreographers. Cynthia Pepper and Julia Adam were the winners in the innovation category. Aimée chose to attack personally both Larry and Cynthia without justifying her claims with facts. She said Cynthia was out of her league. After reading her bio, everyone would disagree. She is an award-winning internationally known dance filmmaker with four dance films in distribution. She choreographs all over the Bay Area for many types of groups. We are lucky as dance fans to see her work on stage paired with ballet. Cynthia was the only modern choreographer on the program with an original score, original costumes (three in one dance) and two set pieces alongside live musicians. Every other choreographer chose one or none (in Mr. Caniparoli's case) of the above artistic challenges. Ts'ao mentioned we don't need another "white ballet" in Mr. Pech's case, we got another one on this program and it was rather nice. No need to hurt feelings here.

Ms. Ts'ao is seemingly a frustrated former dancer, former teacher, hack choreographer, and failed producer who took out her frustrations rather than properly and constructively critiquing these hard working artists. Is the point of a criticism to hurt artists? I think not. She really missed a wonderful show. Maybe some rose-colored glasses could sweeten her outlook. Give me her address, I'll send her a pair.

Ronald T. Dawson  
San Rafael, California

**Likes one columnist**

I was glad to read Dale Carpenter's column in the November 16 issue and hope he will be a regular. Your paper may be more respected if you publish a reasonable viewpoint rather than only liberal writers such as your Wayne Friday. I'm always apprehensive about journalists with an agenda such as Friday who described Jeb Bush as "bumbling" and implied that the Florida governor and secretary of state are suspect in the close Florida vote results. Maybe if you didn't blindly accept the propaganda that comes from the current Democratic Party, you could also report on facts such as the butterfly ballot being designed and approved by the Florida Democrats. Why not include in your article that in the 1996 election Buchanan got 4,000 votes in Palm Beach County which is more than the 3,400 he got this time that you imply as being "accidentally" cast? Thank you if you publish my letter as a counterpoint to the letters you printed in which no one was pro-Bush.

Roger Ringer  
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Dale Carpenter's OutRight column runs every other week.]

**Mayor thanked**

[The following letter was sent to Mayor Willie Brown.]

Thank you. You will never know how much your certificate of honor to Raymond Laird and Allen Charlton means to us. It will be in a frame momentarily.

Our 30th anniversary was yesterday. Your office presented the certificate to Raymond while he was working at the Sausage Factory in the Castro. He has been a waiter there for 20 years and has made friends with many people, but who would have thought that they would think enough of him to request that you present a certificate of honor for our long term relationship.

I understand that this certificate is not presented very often. I want to thank you for giving special recognition to our relationship. I am sure there are not many mayors or cities that would think of this as a special occurrence.

Thank you once again for your thoughtfulness.

Allen Charlton  
San Francisco

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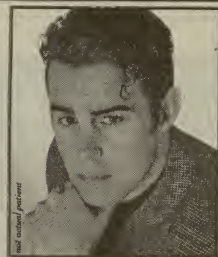
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## POLITICS

# Migden's legislation; Clinton on DADT

by Wayne Friday

**A**ssemblywoman **Carole Migden's** domestic partners legislation – the very first piece of legislation that the San Francisco assemblywoman introduced in the Legislature last week – would expand the limited protections for domestic partners under current California law.

The new bill, AB25, launched last Monday on the same day as the organizational session of the new Assembly, would provide many basic economic rights for lesbian and gay families that most California families take for granted. "Lesbian and gay families are an important part of the mainstream of life in this state, and the law needs to catch up," Migden said.

"Current law allows families to obtain health insurance for their dependents, pass on property, and defend their economic rights in court. Lesbian and gay families need these protections, too. These are simple, basic rights, not special rights."



Assemblywoman Carole Migden

Economic rights in Migden's newly-introduced bill include the ability to: inherit property without a will or administer an estate; seek compensation for the loss of economic or emotional support; make medical decisions in the hospital or act as a conservator; relocate with a domestic partner without losing unemployment benefits; use sick leave to care for a family member; and extend employer-based health coverage to domestic partners of small businesses and cover dependents without additional taxation.

The proposed legislation will be considered by the Legislature in 2001.

President **Bill Clinton**, looking back at his eight years in the presidency, said in a current *Rolling Stone* interview that the Republicans in Washington outmaneuvered him into a failed policy on gays in the military. In his first days in office, Clinton said, the Republicans "didn't want me to have a honeymoon," so forced the issue of his campaign promise to allow gays to serve openly in the military, knowing they had the votes in Congress to defeat it. "And it was only then that I worked out with [General] **Colin Powell** this 'don't ask, don't tell' thing," Clinton said, acknowledging that "it

was a brilliant political move" on the part of the Republican leader, former Senator **Bob Dole**, whose "top priority was making this the controversy that would consume the early days of my presidency."

## Politics and people

The Tuesday, December 12 runoff elections for supervisor in a couple of districts got a bit heated, if not downright nasty, during the end before this week's vote – particularly in District 5 between **Juanita Owens** and **Matt Gonzalez**; District 7 between

**Mabel Teng** and **Tony Hall**; and District 8 between **Mark Leno** and **Eileen Hansen**. Incidentally, the SF Republican Party, failing pathetically in an attempt in

November to elect one of their own to the 11-mem-

ber board, chose to endorse incumbent Supervisors **Leland Yee** in District 4, **Amos Brown** in District 11 and **Linda Richardson** in an open seat race in District 10.

They don't speak openly about it in Washington (well, not too loudly, anyway) but with South Carolina Senator **Strom Thurmond** having celebrated his 98th birthday last week, and needing at least a couple of much younger aides to practically carry him to the floor of the Senate every time he puts in an appearance, Capitol Hill observers are quietly pointing out that the Democratic governor of South Carolina would be expected to appoint a Democrat to Thurmond's seat, thus breaking the 50-50 tie in favor of the Democrats, should Thurmond have to depart the Senate.

Incidentally, yet another ailing, aging Republican senator, **Jesse Helms** of North Carolina, was hospitalized again recently with pneumonia, although the 79-year-old homophobe was seen shuffling around the Capitol this week. North Carolina, too, has a Democratic governor, and despite denials from Helms and his staff that he is ailing, he, too, might be leaving soon.

The last time the U.S. Senate was so closely divided, with its current 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats, deaths indeed played a major role. In the 83rd Congress, from 1953 through 1954, the Senate was organized by Republicans. At the outset, the GOP held a 48-47 majority with one independent member. But before the session ended, nine senators had died and one had resigned and Republicans were forced to maintain control in part through the tie-breaking power exercised by then-Vice President **Richard Nixon**.

In Fife Lake, Michigan, the winner of a supervisor's race between incumbent **Dave Stremlow** and challenger **Toni Larson** was finally decided last week with the flip of a coin and a lottery. When a recount showed that each of the two candidates polled 600 votes on November 7, the town (population 2,700) relied on a 1954 state statute that says in the case of an election tie, a lottery will decide the winner, so the county clerk flipped a coin to determine which one would draw

first from a box holding two slips of paper, one that read "elected" and another that read "not elected." Larson won the coin flip and the draw and was named the winner.

The new California Legislature, sworn in last week, has more women and Hispanics than ever before. Twenty-seven Latinos were among those sworn in, up from seven in 1990. There are 34 women, an increase from 18 a decade ago, and the number of Asians increased to three, up one from the last Legislature. Oakland Assemblywoman **Wilma Chan** and southern California Assemblywoman **Carol Liu**, both Democrats, became the first Chinese Americans to serve in the Legislature since **March Fong Eu** gave up her Assembly seat in 1974 to become California secretary of state.



Toni Atkins

Down in San Diego, open lesbian **Toni Atkins**, a former staffer for newly elected lesbian Assemblywoman **Christine Kehoe**, was



Christine Kehoe

sworn in December 4 as the newest member of the San Diego City Council. Atkins replaces Kehoe, who served on the City Council before being elected to the Assembly last month.

Considering what has happened to Vice President **Al Gore** these past few weeks in Florida and at the Republican-dominated U. S. Supreme Court, the veep can look to this fact: only three presidential candidates who have lost the popular vote have won the presidency, all in the 19th century. All the winners in those races had extremely difficult, one-term presidencies, and two were defeated four years later in a rematch with their original opponents.

And how was your week? ▼

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# Hir, beside the beautiful se

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

A handful of years ago, a new word was introduced into my vocabulary: hir.

If you guessed that this is a combination pronoun, sitting somewhere in the middle of "him" and "her," and encompassing both and neither at the same time, you are far ahead of many. There are variations on this, as well as replacements for "he" and "she," like s/he, ze, se, or xe.

I'm happy with the simple, plain vanilla, "she" and "her,"

myself, but these non-gendered pronouns underscore an important point to me: gender is a lot more fluid than we often give it credit for.

I grew up with the firm belief that there were only two genders in the world: man and woman. Even when I heard of transsexual-ity, it was still clear that this was a move from one gender to another, and the focus remained on being one or the other, not on the space between.

It seemed rational enough. Of

course, I also believed in the tooth fairy at one time, but I suspect that a molar under my pillow nowadays would not gain me a shiny coin.

We live in a society that says that we must fit one of the two standard gender categories, and from the moment we are born, a gender is assigned to us, based on the appearance of our genitals. Because of the gender we're assigned, expectations of how we will act, what we will do, and who we will love are set upon us.

If you are born with a penis, you just have to be a

man. You'll be into sports, be strong, silent, and hold back all those nasty feelings. You'll wear suits and ties, and work in some form of masculine job. And yes, you simply must be attracted to women. If not, you simply aren't being enough of a man.

Of course, society also states that if you happen to be born with a vagina — or at least without a penis — then you are a woman. Though a lot more options have opened up since I was younger, the assumption is still that you'll



Christa Smith

want to raise kids and take care of the house. You don't need to be emotionally distant, of course, but you need to be able to hold that back a bit in order to be available for your husband.

I know that I'm sunk when it comes to fitting either of the above genders. I couldn't pull it off back in the day when I tried to be a good little boy, and I don't manage it all that well today, living as a woman.

To be frank, in reading the above descriptions of man and woman, I'm actually not that upset at my failure. I suspect I am in good company, too, and that many of you reading this violate at least a few of the above gender assumptions. Take a moment and think about the ways that you might have gone against those as-

sumptions today. Given a chance, it could become a lengthy list.

So yet again we end up with gender being a much more fluid construct than society would like to admit: something that can ebb and flow like the tide.

Don't get me wrong: one can stay firmly entrenched in one or the other, if they really wish to. As I said earlier, I'm happy with my pronouns, and am happy to be living, more or less, within the bounds of "woman." In part because of that, I'm certainly not going to tell you to give up your own gender preference if you don't want to. But I think most people are somewhere in between these two constructs. How many of us — transgender or otherwise — have ended up getting a double take now and then, or found our-

selves raising eyebrows when we enter a particular bathroom?

You may have even experienced another one of those terms reserved for those who don't seem to conform to a simple pronoun. Like "him, uh, her." Maybe you have even encountered one of my least favorites: "it."

Of course, there may be a few of you reading who have already figured out that "man" and "woman" is a pretty flimsy binary, and have opted to swim amongst the boundaries of these two genders. Or maybe you have rejected both "man" or "woman" entirely. You are well ahead of many of us, including yours truly, and my hat — if I wore one — is off to you.

So let me end this with a little experiment: take a look at the pronouns you tend to assign to others, and why you pick the ones you do. In particular, look at those cases where you don't have any sort of "gender cues" to help you in your choice.

Perhaps you could even go as far as to try using "hir" or "se" in place of an assumed pronoun, just once. Test the waters, if you will. ▼

Gwen Smith only asks that you do not call her late for dinner. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at [www.gwensmith.com](http://www.gwensmith.com).

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by Katie Szymanski

You've done the queer circuit of national gatherings, and while they are always somewhat stimulating, they tend not to emphasize what lies at the heart of LGBT rights: gender.

GenderPAC, an organization dedicated to preserving every American's right to gender expression — from the hyper-male to the cross dresser to the androgynous to the straight woman who refuses to wear makeup — has announced the first National Conference on Gender, to take place

May 18-20 in Washington, D.C. The conference is designed to "bring together all the diverse communities and identities who have a stake in gender rights: youth, feminist, gay, transgender, queer, questioning, and straight," according to organizers. Participants will be empowered politically and socially, and coalitions will be built among various populations.

The National Conference on Gender is still accepting proposals for workshops from individuals or groups with an expertise in particular areas. Workshops may strengthen the organizing skills of gender rights advocates and activists; help people make connections across the diverse communities affected by gender civil rights; or educate on gender policy and political issues such as hate crimes, job discrimination, misogyny, sexual orientation, media fairness, intersex genital mutilation, and GID reform.

Considerations for selection include relevance to gender politics, policy, strategy, and organizing; content and panelists dealing with diverse groups and communities; presenter qualifications and experience; overall strength of the submission; and diverse race/gender/class/age representation among panelists and presenters. Primary consideration will be given to presentations and workshops that are issue-based instead of identity-based and appeal across a broad range of attendees. In other words, "a proposed workshop on gender-based hate crimes would be given stronger consideration if it not only addressed crimes like that of Brandon Teena, but also assaults against gay men perceived as 'flamboyant,' sexual assaults against women, and the harassment of genderqueer

page 23 ►

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# Mediocre 'Folk'

by Dale Carpenter

A television show preceded by a warning of "Adult Content, Nudity, Graphic Language, and Strong Sexual Situations," begs for attention. Add to that a pledge that the show will be a groundbreaking depiction of gay life, and it becomes must-see TV. But Showtime's new series, *Queer as Folk* (QAF), so far reneges on its promise. Trumpeted as a kind of gay *Sex and the City*, QAF lacks the qualities that would put it in that league.

Modeled on a British series of the same name, QAF follows the lives and loves of five gay men (Brian, Michael, Justin, Emmett, and Ted) and a lesbian couple (Lindsay and Melanie) in Pittsburgh. Showtime spent about \$10 million publicizing the series, with special advertising directed at the large urban gay populations in cities like San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York.

Much of the pre-debut hype focused on how much QAF would itself focus on sex, specifically gay male sex. This made people nervous. Religious conservatives don't want gays seen at all, much less romping around.

Gay critics tend to divide into two camps when it comes to depictions of gays in the popular media. These camps might be called, respectively, the satyrs and the prudes. The satyrs worry that the portrayal of gay life in mainstream media tends to be too sanitized, devoid of sex and drugs. These critics blast successful programs like *Will & Grace* for failing to show gay characters in tongues-entwined passion. They fret that gays might be seen as normal.

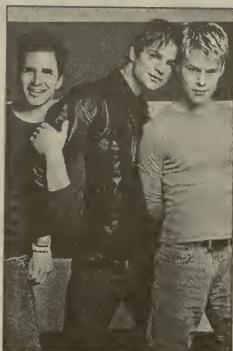
The prudes worry that any mention of gay sex will reinforce the stereotype that homosexuals are sex-obsessed. They fret that gays might not be seen as normal. This camp had reason to be concerned as Showtime began its "No limits" propaganda about QAF.

QAF does have a lot of sex, though less than one might have expected given the furor. There's plenty of attractive flesh on display, but nothing out-of-the-ordinary for late-night fare on a premium cable channel. The difference here is that this is homosexual sex, something new on television.

But there are two aspects of this sexualized world that should dismay the satyrs. First, although there's lots of sex in QAF it's not very sexy. The sex scenes feel mechanical, as if the characters are reading off cue cards as they go: "Now touch the back of his neck with your right forefinger, next place your left foot three inches behind his, then breathe heavily. ..."

This forced quality might be a consequence of the actors' own discomfort with homosexuality. Most of the actors are straight. One told *Newsweek* that he was so uncomfortable kissing a guy during a sex scene that afterwards he felt like spitting out and going to a topless club. So much for authenticity. Whatever the cause, the show lacks both the raw sexuality of hard-core pornography and the eroticism of the soft-core variety.

Second, it's not clear yet what the show is trying to say about sex. Although all of the characters talk habitually about it, and one cruises the Internet for pornography at work, only one of them, Brian (played by Gale Harold), actually



QAF: Pretty boys all in a row

has sex with the frequency and abandon befitting a true satyr.

At the same time, Brian is the most emotionless and detached of the characters. He donates sperm to the lesbian couple so they can have a child, then forgets the newborn's name. He treats Justin (played by Randy Harrison), a 17-year-old just awakening to his sexuality, like a dispensable dishrag.

There are a couple of directions the producers could go with this. One would continue to portray Brian as a one-dimensional, heartless sex machine. The other would have Brian's inhumanity tempered. Perhaps he'll fall in love. Perhaps he'll become a devoted father. He would be the beast tamed at last.

In either case, the message of QAF may be that promiscuity makes you a cold, insensitive, shallow jerk. If that's true, the show is a new way of promoting the old idea that what really counts in life is not the number of your orgasms but the quality of your love. Intimacy with too many people may lead to intimacy with no one. Satyrs beware. QAF sells sex too much in order to tell us too much sex is bad.

There are other problems with the show. QAF's sense of humor is so anemic it's almost embarrassing, including some catty one-liners from the queeny Emmett that mostly fall flat. There's some sophomoric play on the word "come," for example, but nothing approaching the snide sophistication of *Will & Grace*.

Then there's the occasional sight gag or pratfall. To show that a car has been damaged, the writers have a piece of it fall off while a character stands in the background with mouth agape. Emmett faints to the floor when someone describes circumcision. At moments like that, this isn't a gay *Sex and the City*; it's a gay *Three Stooges*.

Fran Lebowitz once joked that without gays American culture would basically be *Let's Make a Deal*. Well, without wit, romance, sophistication, and character depth, gay life is basically QAF.

It might get better. We might come to care what happens to these cardboard characters with their silly lines and their automation sex. But for now, QAF is proof that equality means we're free to be mediocre, too. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at [OutRight@aol.com](mailto:OutRight@aol.com).

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# Deck the halls

by Jane Warner

**3** 500 block of 19th Street, December 6, 5 a.m.: A man and his girlfriend were getting into their parked sports utility vehicle when an older blue Honda with tinted windows pulled up next to them. One of the passengers of the Honda pointed a sawed-off shotgun out the window and told the man, "Give me all your money." The gunman and another suspect got out of the Honda and pulled the victim from his car, forcing him to the ground. Both assailants kicked the victim in the head and then got into his SUV and drove off with the third suspect in the Honda behind them. The robbers, described as African American, between 19 and 30 years old, 5 feet 10 to 6 feet tall, were last seen driving southbound on Valencia.

### 'Tis the season

**Kinko's parking lot, 1967 Market, December 4, 10:20 p.m.:** A woman getting into her car parked at the Kinko's lot was suddenly grabbed from behind by an unknown man who came out of the shadows. The assailant held her by the throat and told her, "Give me all your money, or I'll kill you." The woman screamed and kicked with her heel at the man's shins. The suspect threw her to the ground, pulling on her

purse. Fearing for her life, the woman let go of her handbag and the man fled on foot eastbound on Market. The suspect is described as a white male, 40-50 years old, 6 feet tall, 190 pounds, with a scruffy beard, red hair, and wearing glasses, a plaid shirt, and dark pants.

### Haphazard holidays

**Bank of America, 501 Castro, December 5, 4 p.m.:**

Two women came into the bank and wanted to cash a check which had a memo that read, "Xmas bonus." The teller became suspicious after one of the women's signatures did not match her identification, and the bank employee called the owner of the check to verify its validity. The check owner said his car was recently broken into and his check book was stolen. The teller called 911 and the women fled the bank.

### Close save

**700 block of Douglass, December 7, 8:40 p.m.:** A woman who left her elderly mother alone in her house while she ran errands came home and was surprised to find the door unlocked. As she prepared to go in, suddenly a strange man opened the door from the inside and stood in the doorway looking at her.

Alarmed, the woman asked what he was doing there and the man told her he was waiting for "Joe" and pushed past her. The

woman, knowing a "Joe" didn't live with her, immediately called her mother on her cell phone as the suspect continued to walk southbound on Douglass toward 24th. The mother answered the call and the woman screamed at her to get out of the house, then yelled for neighbors to call 911.

Police arrived with a dog which searched the house for any additional suspects, as other officers scoured the neighborhood for the intruder. Both searches were uneventful.

Nothing was reported missing and police surmised the woman came home just in time, interrupting the burglary and averting a possible tragic confrontation between her mother and the suspect.

**The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.**

## Federal court to hear gay man's death row appeal

by Katie Szymanski

**T**here is a silver lining in the human barbecue state, but no thanks to the execution-happy George W. Bush.

A gay man on Texas' death row whose lawyer slept through much of his trial will be granted a hearing by a federal appeals court, judicial officials announced last Wednesday, December 6.

Calvin Burdine, who was convicted in 1984 of stabbing his lover to death, will have another shot at justice before the full 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The court's decision to review the case came on the heels of a 2-1 ruling by its own panel that denied Burdine's request for review because he had "failed to prove" that his attorney Joe Cannon slept through "key portions" of his trial. Napping, according to that panel, is actually okay in some circumstances.

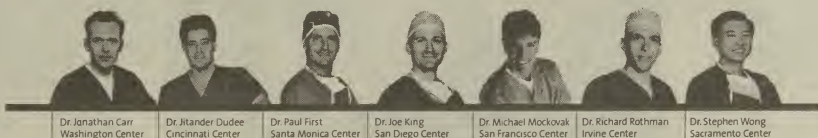
Attorney Cannon, who is now dead and cannot speak for what he did or did not miss during the original murder trial, at the very least allowed his client to be repeatedly referred to as "queer" by the prosecution, according to court transcripts. Cannon also did not protest the prosecution's assertion that prison was too light of a sentence for a gay man who would obviously enjoy the all-male close quarters.

Earlier this year, when asked about the Burdine case, Bush, who was campaigning for the presidency, offered nothing but a smirk. There were three executions in Texas last week alone, bringing the state's grand total to 39 this year, which includes the lethal injection of a developmentally disabled man.

Burdine's hopes seemed all but exhausted until the federal court agreed to hear his case, a rarity when one of its panels has already made a decision. His appeal is scheduled to be heard on January 22 in New Orleans. ▼

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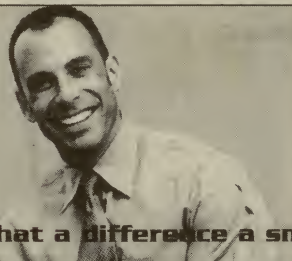
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## LGBT Center hires temp director as budget balloons

by Terry Beswick

Mike Marshall has been retained as interim executive director of the San Francisco Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center, currently undergoing renovation and construction at 1800 Market Street.

Marshall, who managed the No on Knight campaign that sought to defeat last March's successful Proposition 22, will have his hands full getting the new multipurpose, multi-tenant center off the ground. Due to unanticipated problems at the construction site, the price tag for the 40,000 square foot building recently went up another \$800,000, from \$14.5 to \$15.3 million, and the ribbon-cutting for the center got bumped from summer 2001 to next fall.

"This is a really exciting project," Marshall said Tuesday, December 12. "It's long overdue. If there's one thing I discovered during the No on Knight campaign, it's that there's a gaping hole here in San Francisco, and that's that there's no gay and lesbian community center here in San Francisco."

"We are thrilled to have Mike lead us in these next few crucial months of the project," Pat Martel, president of the center's board,



Interim director Mike Marshall

said in a statement. "Mike understands the powerful role community centers play in the life of the LGBT community, he has outstanding skills to help us communicate the vision and purpose of the center to its future users, and he has the ability to help us attract the resources we need to realize this dream."

The professional campaign consultant and fundraiser said his principal job over the next few months will be to spearhead the final stretch of the center's fundraising campaign, which will pay for the center's furnishings, staff, and initial operating budget,

as well as for Marshall's fundraising expenses, presumably including his own salary.

"My mission is to get the center to the point where it will open its doors," said Marshall, although his contract expires at the end of April, several months before the center is scheduled to open.

The center's board has contracted a prominent headhunter firm, Korn-Ferry International, to lead the search for a more permanent executive director. Marshall said he hasn't yet made up his mind whether or not he will apply, though he acknowledged that he has no plans to work elsewhere next spring and that he will be in an enviable position to make an informed choice about working for the center's board of directors.

After the nail-biting experience of having to raise over \$7 million in a hurry leading the doomed attempt to fight homophobic state Senator Pete Knight's Proposition 22, the statewide ballot initiative that defined marriage as being between a man and a woman, Marshall expressed confidence about the job ahead of him.

Of the new budget of \$15.3 million, the center has raised over \$12.1 million of that amount.

"The goal is \$3.1 million," Marshall said, referring to the amount still needed to round out

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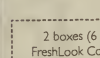
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# Boy Scouts' woes continue to grow

by Bob Roehr

**L**GBT elected officials "expressed their sorrow" at President Clinton's "decision to continue to serve as Honorary President of the Boy Scouts despite their organization's blatant and deeply hurtful discrimination against us and others like us."

"By refusing to step down ... you lend your personal prestige and that of your office to this hateful prejudice." They urged Clinton to "not let one of your last opportunities as President to strike a blow against prejudice go unfulfilled."

The officials reached that consensus at a meeting of the International Network of Gay and Lesbian Officials in Tucson, Arizona held over the weekend of November 18, though the letter was not delivered to the White House until November 28.

Among those who signed the letter were Representatives Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin). Locally, Hayward City Council member Kevin Dowling also signed the letter. Some prominent names are missing from the 29 who signed on. But that is not an indication of their position, only that they did not attend the dinner where the idea

arose and was quickly dispatched.

Pressure against the homophobic policy of the Boy Scouts continues to mount in jurisdictions across the nation. Each week seems to bring additional news accounts of a company or local government agency deciding to withdraw their support from the organization.

On December 1, New York City Schools Chancellor Harold O. Levy barred the system from supporting the Boy Scouts. It will not renew a \$800,000 contract it has with the Scouts that expires in April 2002, nor will schools be able to sponsor troops, though the group can continue to use school facilities if they pay the fees that other organizations must.

That prompted a backlash from a few local school board members in Queens, who vowed to fight the policy. District 24 led opposition to the gay inclusive "children of the rainbow" curriculum in 1992.

But Mayor Rudolph Giuliani backed Levy. He said, "I think that what the chancellor is trying to do makes sense, he's trying to get the Boy Scouts to have a fairer, more equitable policy with regard to treatment of people."

In November, the Broward County School Board of South Florida, the nation's fifth largest

system, said that its policy of non-discrimination led it to bar the Boy Scouts from support.

The Scouts countered, filing a lawsuit on December 4 that charged the board was discriminating against them. "Because the school board disagrees with [our] views, it has sought to punish the Boy Scouts by singling them out for exclusion from the public schools," said Jeffrie Hermann, an executive with the local Scout council.

In Santa Barbara, California, the Scouts are being sued by a former employee. Leonard Lanzi, the top scouting executive for Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, was fired in November after he made a public statement that he was gay.

Lanzi's suit, filed December 6, charges that the dismissal violates California's employment discrimination law. Attorney Steven Serratore said the Boy Scouts "knowingly violated these laws by their blatant discriminatory treatment of Mr. Lanzi in the workplace."

Serratore explained that the case differs significantly from the Dale case where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Scouts had a right to discriminate in its volunteer membership. This case "involves the right to work free of discrimination." ▼

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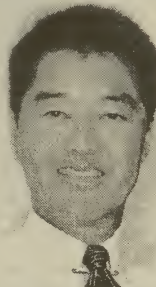
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# Medical conditions worsen inside state prison for women

by Katie Szymanski

Ginger Phillips spent most of last week drifting in and out of consciousness at San Francisco General Hospital. Her family stood at her bedside, relieved that she was out of prison but angry that her health had deteriorated so drastically in the eight months she had been inside.

"This is murder," Mary Phillips, Ginger's sister, told the *Bay Area Reporter*. She held a big sign that read, "You're not in jail anymore," so her sister would no longer be afraid.

Ginger Phillips, who was at Central California Women's Facility since April on a petty theft charge, is now considered to be dying from AIDS. She entered CCWF a healthy woman, but was paroled on December 1 thanks to a compassionate release, a medically necessary discharge that can only be granted when a prisoner has less than six months to live. She was released without her medical records, however, and only after several phone calls did the prison agree to send them. Mary Phillips isn't convinced they sent original or accurate documentation of what happened.

"My sister didn't serve her time to come back as a vegetable," said Mary Phillips. "Somebody did

something to her in there."

One prison rumor circulating is that Ginger was given heavy doses of psychiatric medication in addition to her HIV treatment. It was soon after, they say, that she suffered a stroke, leaving her in her present motionless state. But nobody other than Ginger knows the truth, and she may never recover enough to tell it.

Ginger's story is typical of women inside, according to prisoners' rights advocates around the Bay Area, who this week demanded an investigation into several recent deaths at CCWF. Five women have died at the facility since a panel of state legislators led by state Senator Richard Polanco (D-Los Angeles) conducted a hearing into prison medical conditions in October, an event that concluded with lawmakers promising a follow-up study and recommendations. No action has yet been taken by the state.

"We have asked Senator Polanco's Joint Committee on Prison Construction and Operations to step in and head an investigation," said Lauren Leslie, a staff member of Legal Services for Prisoners with Children.

The coalition of activists demanding more movement on the issue includes LSPC, the HIV in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus, and Justice Network

on Women. Those involved are asking that the medical records of the women who died be examined by an impartial panel of public health doctors, and that the prison's medical technical assistants, or MTAs, be abolished, since the position combines both punitive duties with medical care and often hinders women's chances of survival.

"We've learned that one of the women who died was actually laughed at by an MTA an hour before she passed away," explained Cynthia Chandler, co-director of Justice NOW.

For most of these women, their conditions became dire before a

compassionate release could be granted. Ginger Phillips, whose compassionate release was initiated four days after the legislative hearings and became final just this month, still had difficulty finding a hospice placement, which is why SFGH stepped in.

"The tragedy was the shape she was in by the time she was released," said Judy Greenspan of HIP/CPF. "The lack of prisoner-friendly services in the community meant we couldn't get her released near her family. Thank goodness the hospital is still around. It's in serious financial shape, but had it not existed we wouldn't have found a place for

Ginger."

The Phillips family would like an investigation into Ginger's situation as well, but Mary Phillips isn't convinced it would do any good.

"The state knows what's going on in there," she said. "I'd like to know what's been lied about, but it's hard to get into that system and try to find out what actually happened."

"They really need to change conditions for people going through what my sister went through," added Mary Phillips. "They need to turn that place around." ▼

## LGBT Center

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the center's escalating budget.

Tuesday was his first day on the job, Marshall said, and yet he wasn't sure what he is to be paid for his services as interim director. Evidently, his fees may have been one of the final sticking points in his salary negotiations. As the *Bay Area Reporter* went to press, his contract had not yet been signed, according to board vice president and center spokesman Dana Van Gorder, who said that even he did not know what Marshall was to be paid.

"We sort of expect him to be working pretty much full-time,"

Van Gorder remarked, adding that Marshall will be paid an "hourly fee" under the terms of his contract.

Martel did not return calls by press time regarding Marshall's salary.

Van Gorder said that the recent revision to the center's budget was brought about by problems with previously undiscovered toxic waste at the construction site next to the old Fallon Building, the Queen Anne Victorian which was saved from the wrecking ball by preservationists and will serve as the cornerstone for a new adjoining modern structure. And before a foundation could be laid for the new building, it was determined that a new foundation had to be

put in for an unrelated building next door. Put together, these problems added up fast, tacking almost a million dollars onto the center's ballooning budget.

Van Gorder said that the Community Center Project is still hoping to attract big donors by dangling the carrot of having a chance to name the center.

Until somebody ponies up some really big bucks, it will remain the San Francisco Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center.

"It's a million dollar opportunity," said Van Gorder.

The Coors Center, maybe?

"Never," said the vice president. ▼

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# New Internet-based nonprofit provides info on adoption, parenting for LGBT community

by Dan Aiello

**D**avid Kovarik-Wing, inspired by the experiences he and his lover faced while going through the adoption process, has founded Families Like Ours, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the special needs of LGBT parents and those looking to adopt.

Kovarik-Wing hit the ground running. Families Like Ours began operations just two months ago and by November the organization's Web site was already in operation, providing information on how to adopt through the nation's foster care programs. Other components of the Web site, including international adoption information, interactive parenting, a nationwide database of agencies and attorneys advocating LGBT adoptions, a safe chat room for kids from alternative families to interact, and a collection of data about LGBT families for judges and social workers to access are all in development.

Although based in Seattle, Families Like Ours "will serve the entire community throughout the country," said Kovarik-Wing. "We're set up as a virtual office." Kovarik-Wing emphasized that

"we are not an adoption agency, although we provide general adoption information. Our main purpose is as a support group for families who've already adopted." However, Kovarik-Wing explained that Families Like Ours can help to prepare lesbians and gays for the adoption process, referred to as "the waiting game."

The organization's Web site also provides valuable information on different adoption options, both inside the United States, as well as internationally. Families Like Ours also is compiling information on the adoption process in each state as well as what counties within each state look most favorably on LGBT family adoptions. Because California is considered more supportive of gay and lesbian adoptions, "a lot of people go to California to adopt," said Kovarik-Wing.

And the need for gay and lesbian households to consider adoption is great, according to Kovarik-Wing. Nearly 200,000 children within the U.S. foster care program alone are available for adoption, many of them with special needs. Among those with special needs are children infected with HIV. Many children aban-

next page ►



Edward and Barry, who didn't want their last names used, are the proud adoptive parents of Mystique.

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# Excess virus mutations could hold key to fighting HIV, hepatitis C

by Ed Walsh

**C**ould a fighting-fire-with-fire strategy be the key to a cure for HIV?

A new study aimed at treating hepatitis C is suggesting that speeding up a virus's ability to mutate could ultimately cause the virus to overmutate and die off.

University of California, San Francisco researchers have discovered that one of the few drugs available to treat hepatitis C, ribavirin, works by overwhelming the virus with a flood of mutations.

"That ribavirin destroys viruses by generating excess mutations comes as a big surprise because viruses that the drug attacks, those with RNA [ribonucleic acid] as their genetic material, usually profit from their ability to mutate," said Shane Crotty, a graduate student in UCSF's department of microbiology and immunology. "RNA viruses like HIV and the influenza virus use a naturally high mutation rate to avoid and escape most treatments and vaccines."

"These viruses are incredibly clever. They use mutations to get around almost anything. But we now see that ribavirin adds so many extra mutations to the virus, that it is pushed into a kind of genetic meltdown," added Crotty.

Two pharmaceutical companies have already begun working with the study findings to develop a more effective form of ribavirin. Currently, ribavirin is prescribed together with the immune boost-

ing drug interferon-alpha for patients who have hepatitis C, but it cures only about a third of these cases.

So what does the study mean for HIV? Could the cure for HIV be as simple as forcing the virus to burn out by overmutating?

Crotty told the *Bay Area Reporter* that HIV presents a unique

challenge because although it's classified as an RNA virus, it converts into its host's DNA. But Crotty said he is hopeful that other scientists could use his study to develop new and unique strategies to fight HIV.

"I think now that we've shown that this strategy, this mutationalizing the virus, not only can work in

a laboratory environment but is actually the way the clinically used antiviral drug [ribavirin] works, I do think that will excite drug companies to pursue that as an avenue of anti-viral drug strategy, and hopefully even try that out against HIV. I don't see why they shouldn't," said Crotty.

The study is published in the

December issue of *Nature Medicine*.

Crotty's main co-investigators on the study were Craig Cameron, Ph.D., assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Pennsylvania State University, and Raul Andino, Ph.D., UCSF associate professor of microbiology and immunology. ▼

## Washington

◀ page 1

friends."

### Senate

While HRC "had hoped for different leadership in the House and Senate," Buermeyer said the defeat of four conservative Republican senators will make it "much easier for us to move a pro-active agenda and fight the kind of anti-gay stuff that we anticipate seeing."

Anders noted that Senator Jim Jeffords (R-Vermont) was one vote shy of getting the Employment Non-Discrimination Act out of committee. The changing ratio of composition on that committee should make it easier to move the legislation from the committee to the floor of the Senate for a vote.

Tafel "expects no huge surprises" in the Senate. He sees Republican moderates gaining influence, and Maine's Olympia Snow is poised to play an increasing role.

### House

The House has its own set of uncertainties as the Republican leadership seems intent upon en-

forcing its rule of allowing people to serve only six years as chair of a particular committee. That leaves "a lot of unanswered questions," said Anders.

The Judiciary Committee is the most ideologically polarized in the House, with members drawn mainly from the left and the right extremes of their respective parties. "It is a sad commentary that most of us who work on civil rights issues are really cheering on Henry Hyde (R-Illinois)" in his efforts to retain the chairmanship of that committee, said Anders.

Hyde "has been able to hold it together," and generally has been protective of civil rights issues, with the exception of his strong pro-life stance, said Anders. His possible successor does not have such strengths.

The Commerce Committee has jurisdiction over AIDS legislation. Tom Bliley (R-Virginia) "did keep a lot of bad things from getting through," said Anders. The Ryan White CARE Act was also reauthorized in 2000, for another five years. It is unclear who will succeed Bliley.

Buermeyer said they are going to have to find "creative ways" to get the Republican leadership to move legislation such as hate

crimes and ENDA. "But once those issues reach the floor, I think that we will do very, very well."

Counterbalancing that, she said that lack of visible presidential support for legislation, or the possibility of a veto, makes it more difficult to ask members of Congress for a vote "that may be a little bit hard back home."

Buermeyer acknowledged the common wisdom that redistricting following the 2000 census will make it difficult for Democrats to gain seats in the House in 2002. Both redistricting and the continued likelihood of minority status will contribute to a number of Democrats choosing to retire.

"We as a community have to be really smart about how we do this. We have to be willing to reach across the aisle and work with both parties. We will never pass

anything with only one party." She lay most of the blame for inaction at the feet of the Republican leadership in the House and Senate.

Tafel anticipates that "there will be an effort by Democrats, and I include HRC in that, to try to embarrass Bush," quite possibly on gay issues. "The goal will be to label him as an extremist."

Sloan Weisen, spokesman for the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said that in 1992 the gay and lesbian community saw the election of Bill Clinton as a solution to their problems. The far right took it as a reason to mobilize. "A lot depends on what you make of things," said Weisen. He urged the community to see this change of administrations as "an opportunity to make good things happen. It is a beginning rather than an end point." ▼

## Adoption

◀ previous page

done in orphanages outside the U.S. also suffer from AIDS.

But special needs may not mean the child has a physical or mental disability. Within the U.S. foster care system a special needs child only means there is difficulty with placement. These children include older children, siblings that can't be broken up, children coping with grief, children with behavioral or learning problems, or even children who identify as gay or lesbian.

Despite the large numbers of available children, Kovarik-Wing warns those considering adoption to be prepared for a long wait. "It takes a minimum of a year to adopt," he says. "Ten weeks of parenting classes and two to six months of case study are involved as well." But the reward, he feels, makes the wait worthwhile.

Kovarik-Wing is the first to admit he doesn't know it all. He's not familiar with the ability for HIV-positive individuals or couples or transgender individuals to adopt, but he hopes that those who do know will help to educate his organization.

In addition to adoption information, Families Like Ours hopes to become a parenting resource for LGBT families. "There are unique situations that come up for gay and lesbian families," said Kovarik-Wing. "Something as simple as your daughter wanting to have a slumber party can become a big issue if the school or other parents don't yet know that she has two fathers or two mothers. We hope that our Web site becomes a place for interactive parenting, where people can share how best to manage these situations."

Kovarik-Wing said the site also will be a place for children of alternative families to share and learn. "We're developing a chat room for the kids of alternative

families to interact." He explained that children of alternative families can feel they're somehow different from kids with traditional parents. The "kids only" chat room will be a safe place where LGBT-parented children can understand that there are many alternative families with kids just like them.

In fact, Kovarik-Wing believes children of alternative families should have a major role in developing his organization's policies. "How has it been for you growing up in an alternative household?" he asked. "Only the kids or adults who did can answer that. As a parent, you want to know how best to help your son or daughter cope with the uniqueness of their family with parents, teachers and other kids. One of the best ways to find that out is from kids who've been through it."

Kovarik-Wing's experience with the adoption process has helped to develop the organization's goals on educating not just parents, but adoption agencies and judges, as well. "There was not really discrimination, but rather a lack of experience with same-sex partners. In some cases we were the first same-sex couple, or maybe the second or third for a case worker," he explained. "Our organization wants to help erase that lack of factual information so that judges, agencies, and social workers can access our site and get real information about real alternative families [and] have evidence that these adoptions can be very successful." ▼

Contact David Kovarik-Wing or Families Like Ours at: [www.familieslikeours.org](http://www.familieslikeours.org) for more information. For those starting the adoption process, <http://www.familieslikeours.org/resources/starting.htm>. For state information, go to <http://www.familieslikeours.org/resources/states/bythenumbers.htm>.



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## Roy E. Burdette

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St. Boniface at mass soon and scattered at sea, per his wishes. *Requiescat in pace.*

## Roderick Duncan Geddes



Florida in 1953, served in the Armed Forces, then moved to San Francisco in 1961.

With a 30-year marketing career at The Hartford Insurance Co., he retired in 1994. Following his retirement, Rod

volunteered extensively with the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society transcribing personal oral histories for their archives.

In his lifetime he supported and worked with numerous charitable and community organizations. His compassion for humanity led to his sponsorship and facilitation of political asylum for two Cuban refugees and two Russian citizens. Additionally, he sponsored several international participants for the Gay Olympics in San Francisco and the Gay Games in New York City and Amsterdam. Throughout his life Rod traveled extensively through Central and South America, Europe, Russia and Australia.

He is survived by his domestic partner of 31 years, Bill Grove; his mother, Doris Geddes; his sisters, Kathryn Johannes and Doreen Geddes; sister-in-law Frances Geddes; numerous nieces and nephews; sponsored "sons" Oleg Geykin and Vladimir Korsakov; and dear friends John Meloy, Kevin McAree, Robert Grove Charles Wilson, Robert Golovich and many more too numerous to list.

There will be no memorial services. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, PO Box 424280, S.F., CA 94142

## In a crisis? Help is near

by Terry Beswick

The holidays can be a stressful time for people, and for those going through any sort of crisis, there is help, representatives of San Francisco Suicide Prevention said Monday, December 11, at a news conference to alert the community to available services.

There are also a few simple rules that can help make the pain go away. First, get outside yourself. "If you can't take care of yourself, take care of someone else," suggests Eve Meyer, executive director of SFSP. "If you go through a crisis yourself, when you are through

that crisis, you're in a very good position to help someone else. Consider yourself a scout.

"Second, if you can't take care of yourself, get someone to take care of you," Meyer continued. "The third rule is to remember your family will love you in December just as they did in May." Meyer said she personally took great solace when she decided to simply "give up" on her own birth family.

And with a special focus on helping queers and others at high risk for feeling estranged during the holidays, Meyer said, "Let's come up with rule number four: if your family doesn't work, make your own family." ▼



SFSP's Eve Meyer

Call San Francisco Suicide Prevention at (415) 781-0500. To find out about volunteering for SFSP, call (415) 984-1900.

## ACRC's Edell reflects as agency turns 11

by Marv. Shaw

The AIDS Community Research Consortium is about to enter its 11th year of operation as its executive director marks his 10th at the organization and his 20th year in HIV/AIDS-related work.

"We had our 10th anniversary this year," Executive Director Michael Edell told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

ACRC is Northern California's largest community-based HIV/AIDS research, education, and outreach center. Its offices are located in Redwood City and it primarily serves clients in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties.

The organization was founded in 1989 by Dr. Stanley C. Deresinski. Co-founders include Dr. Dennis Israelski, Dr. Denny McShane, the late Dr. William H. Lipil, Dr. Pradeep Rao, Maryanne Deresinski, R.N., and Nina Kulgein, R.N. According to the organization's

Web site, Stanley Deresinski recalled the work in starting ACRC. "In 1989, the concept of community-based AIDS research was in its infancy. HIV-positive patients could only receive a new treatment if they participated in a clinical trial at academic research centers, most of which were ill-equipped to manage a patient's medical condition. ACRC allowed local physicians to bring clinical trials to the safety and familiarity of the family practice."

Just over a decade later, ACRC finds itself struggling much like its patients of yesterday and today, Edell noted, adding that many AIDS organizations are feeling the effects of donor apathy. Edell said there is a chance that ACRC may change by combining with a similar agency.

Edell, 49, brought to his job twin majors in human resources and small group organization and then guided the first years in clinical trials ACRC. The operation then gradually shifted into educa-

tion and outreach. Edell said ACRC has listened closely to the needs of its clients over the past decade as it became clear that many HIV-positive people need information and support as well as treatments.

He also said that he's disturbed by recent reports that young people are engaging in unsafe sex. "Some teens believe that taking a chance on sex without using a condom is worth the thrill because they think the new HIV medications will cure them if they become infected," he recently noted.

While ACRC may expand its programs, the clinical trials will likely continue. Approximately 2,000 trials have been conducted over the years and while there have been some deaths, advancements also have been made. ▼

For more information about ACRC, go to [www.acrc.org](http://www.acrc.org) or call (650) 364-6563.

## HIV meeting

◀ page 3

view the complex methodology known as the "delphi" system used to come up with the preliminary estimates. Then, without explanation, the meeting was postponed to November.

Now, according to Mike Shriver, Mayor Willie Brown's new adviser on HIV policy, the meeting has been rescheduled for January 19, and rather than allowing the epidemiologists at DPH/UCSF to run the show again, the mayor has taken the reins, and will be host-

ing the meeting at City Hall.

But those members of the public with an interest in the issue should not bother to note the date in their new 2001 calendars: the mayor has decided to close the meeting to the public.

"[We] actually have been in the process of putting together the consensus meeting ... now it's going to be held in January because of the holiday season and the fact that the meeting is now going to be by invitation only," said Shriver, speaking to the *Bay Area Reporter* on Wednesday, December 6.

"There's going to actually be some processes that I know some

of folks in the community are going to be doing to help get people prepared for it to look at getting some more community folks to be part of the process and look at explaining how the 'delphi' [and] consensus meeting is going to be happening," he continued.

"I, of course, am hosting the meeting; it's going to be [at City Hall]," Shriver said. "And then on January the 19th, we should be able to have that harmonic convergence of everybody to be able to be in the same room together."

"It's actually quite good. I'm glad it's going to be happening," added Shriver. ▼



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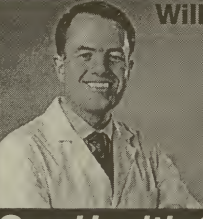
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# Elected

by Jim Provenzano

Team SF didn't need a recount or any Supremes to decide the result of its election. At its fourth-quarter general membership meeting on Saturday, December 2, no hordes of irate Republicans interrupted the recount. Huzzah. Let's secede, shall we?

The meeting closed following the election of board members for 2001. All but one of the 2000 board members will remain on the board for 2001. Leslie Adams, Jerry Ervin, Glenn Galang, Dave Studach, and Anne Ludwig will remain.

The new board members for 2001 include: Kris Nergaard - Swimming, Triathlon  
Colin Gallagher - FrontRunners, Rowing  
Ross Hayduk - Physique  
Jim Oakley - FrontRunners, Basketball  
Irene Velasquez - Volleyball

San Francisco FrontRunners also held its chad-free executive board elections for 2001. New elected members include Erling Eia, president; Daniel Dean, vice president; Jeffrey Chu, treasurer; and Brenda Stowers, secretary.

Team San Francisco is planning events for fundraising and promotion. Start saving your Aussie dollars now. The groundwork has also been set for the new uniform. Team colors will be gold and navy blue, so start designing your matching evening wear.

New committees for publicity, uniform and merchandise, travel and housing, and fundraising will be forming for 2001. For information, please check out the Web site at [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org).

Club representatives to Team San Francisco should encourage their members and participants to start their training. Club representatives should also keep Team SF current on their club's events and practices so that interested individuals can contact them.

The meeting agenda also included reports on the Federation of Gay Games' recent annual meeting in Sydney, Australia, host of the 2002 Gay Games. Reports

and minutes of the recent meeting will be posted on the Team SF Web site at [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org)

The 2002 Games unfortunately will be held the first week of November, during our other annual election. Too bad we all couldn't have been out of the country for this one. Looks like some of us will consider leaving anyway, before

Shrub's environmental policy reduces the entire continent to a scene from Dr. Seuss's *The Lorax*.

One person who's presently considering ex-patriation is old pal Grgreg

Taylor, who's having a big old yard sale this Saturday, from noon to 6 p.m., near the corner of Haight and

Baker, just north of Buena Vista Park. Discount sales of amazing and amusing art, furniture, and other oddities will help fund the fabulous host of countless parties in the fin-de-siecle of Bay Area queendom. Do stop by and say "Cheerio!"

## Toys R Dum

Best news in aisle seven: 70,000 scooters have been recalled in what many hail as the wake-up call from a bout of ultimate consumer stupidity.

After fearful reports that laser hoops, interactive CD ROM versions of Ringelero, stickball, and other 20th century toys were becoming trendy again, and even as a means of transportation, the damn things were recalled en masse. Sales of scooters plummeted after poorly designed handlebars left many post-dot-com cellphonies in search of venture cappuccinos injured from crashing into their live-work lofts valet parking lot attendants.

## Bronze Age

Something for the gals. Let's wonder if women Olympics fans are buying any copies of *Playboy*, what with Olympian Gabriella Reese baring all, and in some poses, bronzed to perfection near her part-time home in Kauai, Hawaii.

Married to maturing surf deity Laird Hamilton, and successful as a leader in volleyball, Reese did get some scolding for posing fully together in this month's issue of



Reece at peace: Gabriella in a clothed moment.

Hefneriana. Not that any frat boys are grumbling.

Many praised Reese for her boldness in posing so tastefully, and turning the vast sea of online celebrity fakes somewhat superfluous. It's amazing, the perverted things those hetero-saxuals are up to online.

Two reasons for gay men to buy *Playboy* just for the articles: there's also an interview with HAL's daddy, sci fi author Arthur C. Clarke, who moved to Sri Lanka for interesting "boyish" reasons. In a feature with pro wrestling hunk Bill Goldberg, the Spear in a Speedo says he has nothing to hide, despite the rumors of his being a man's man. "Hell, I even talk about my nuts in the book."

At great length, some hope, roasted nuts being such a holiday treat. Although, with no nude pics of him, is Reese this month's braver athlete?

You can read more on the topic in the Allen Guttman's erudite essay, "Sports, Eros, and Popular Culture," at <http://www.stanford.edu/group/SHR/6-2/html/guttmann.html>

You can read more of my sassy sports journalism at <http://sports-complex.org>. ▼

## Supervisors

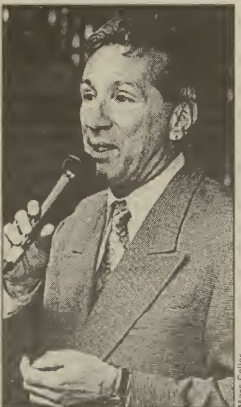
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District 7, it appears, has voted out incumbent Supervisor Mabel Teng, who at press time had 49.5 percent of the vote. Challenger Tony Hall, who has his critics for seemingly endorsing a pro-white platform, edged out Teng at 50.5 percent of the vote. Reviews are mixed when it comes to the results of this race.

District 8, not surprisingly, retained the openly gay Leno as its voice, giving him 51.6 percent of the vote. What was surprising was the tough fight given by lesbian challenger Eileen Hansen, who at one point saw the race in a dead heat but ended the evening with 48.4 percent of the vote.

District 10 once again favored the grassroots effort over the well-funded candidate; Amtrak electrician Sophia Maxwell took 56 percent of the vote, while Linda Richardson, a former planning commissioner, came up short with 44 percent.

In perhaps the most surprising race of the evening, District 11



Supervisor Tom Ammiano

residents not only bid Supervisor Amos Brown adieu, but did so in a manner that said they were not impressed with his history. Brown, it was widely reported earlier this year, evicted an elderly woman and her disabled gay son so that he could move into the district and run for his seat; residents

met that move by giving him just 38.3 percent of the vote. Challenger Gerardo Sandoval, a deputy public defender, won a whopping 61.7 percent of the vote.

The new Board of Supervisors will be sworn in on January 8, and then set about the tasks of electing a board president and establishing committee memberships. Political observers give Ammiano the edge in being re-elected board president. The new board members also will draw lots to determine five seats that will be up for election in two years, and six seats that will be up for grabs in four years.

The composition of the current board now consists of four people of color, just one woman (Maxwell), and only two openly gay supervisors (Leno and Ammiano). Judging by the election results, however, it appears that many LGBT activists feel that gays are better represented by the progressive heterosexual candidates elected, because of their positions on housing, economic empowerment, neighborhood preservation, and transportation, issues that greatly affect marginalized populations. ▼



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Helter shelter

◀ page 1

Supervisor Mark Leno, who has championed the LGBTQQ transitional housing program at 2500 Market Street which will house up to 15 young adults for periods of three to six months, had initially hoped that the facility across from Harvey Milk Plaza on Castro Street would be ready to begin taking homeless youth off the streets before winter.

Winter of 1999, that is. Bitterly opposed by many of the facility's neighbors who feared that an emergency drop-in shelter — as it was proposed in August 1999 — would become a magnet for crime, drugs, and trash and would adversely affect property values in their neighborhood, last year Leno instead helped secure

city funding for a temporary, drop-in shelter at the former Metropolitan Community Church in Noe Valley, and each night several young people were transported to the church by van. And in 1998 a queer youth shelter was set up in the Castro at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, across the street from LYRIC's offices on Collingwood.

Both the EVRC and the MCC shelters were highly controversial among their neighbors, and both were operated under city contract by the nonprofit Ark of Refuge, which operates several other shelters and transitional housing projects in the Bay Area, and which also won the \$600,000 annualized contract for the new program.

But 2500 Market Street will not be an emergency drop-in shelter, instead requiring potential residents to undergo an intake inter-

view at the Dimensions Clinic at the Castro-Mission Health Center on 17th Street, which will make referrals to the new housing program. Full-time trained counselors and other personnel are currently being recruited to staff the facility around the clock.

In addition to free room and board, the Ark of Refuge offers a full range of treatment and counseling services, both on- and off-site, including employment counseling, health care, and substance abuse treatment.

Leno managed to overcome a year and half of legal wrangling, tense community meetings, a fickle landlord, several permit hearings before the Health and Planning commissions, and other obstacles, to make the program a reality. Once the project was approved by the Planning Commission in September, he and DPH

had hoped to open 2500 Market to homeless youth by mid-November.

But in the end, it was delays in construction work — which began just two weeks ago by Fineline, the same firm that is building the new LGBT community center at Market and Octavia streets — that prevented the former gym from opening to homeless youth before the holidays.

"Given the holiday, we will be opening in January," said Margot d. Antonetty, housing policy and program manager at DPH. "[The] exact date will have to wait until we are a bit further along with the construction."

Eric Politzer, interim program manager for the Ark of Refuge, said that "At this point we are looking [at] late January as the early time frame. It's possible that we'll be open by the third week in January, but that's contingent on some things falling into place."

"I think it's horrible, it's unconscionable that there isn't anything for them now," said housing rights activist Tommi Aviccoli Mecca, who noted that 2500 Market Street will not solve the problem of queer youth homelessness in the Castro. Many youth who are drawn to the Castro for its comparative freedoms are not ready to make a commitment to stay in a supervised, structured facility for several months, he said. And many queer youth face an unwelcoming and often unsafe environment in other city-funded adult shelters.

"MCC has got a committee together, and I'm involved with it, to look into getting a new temporary shelter for homeless queer youth in the Castro area," said Aviccoli Mecca. "We haven't located a site yet, but we're working on it. Basi-

cally I feel like we've let down homeless queer youth once again."

Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz has established the 2500 Market advisory committee, a small group of area residents and others concerned with the problem of homelessness in the neighborhood. The committee will be meeting on the second and the fourth Thursdays of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m., and meets Thursday December 14 (tonight) at LYRIC at 127 Collingwood (between 18th and 19th streets).

Joe Ereneta, 23, who works for LYRIC's wellness program, was appointed by Katz to represent the facility's target population as the LGBTQQ young adult representative on the 2500 Market Street community advisory committee.

"I think it's great that we're moving the meetings here to the Castro [from DPH]," said Ereneta, though not because it makes it more convenient for him. He recently was forced to move out of the Castro, and now has to commute to work.

"It's too expensive here," he said.

Ereneta hopes that having advisory committee meetings in the Castro will encourage concerned neighbors and others to attend, and will allow a continuing, productive dialogue between the Ark of Refuge, DPH, and Castro residents and merchants.

"I have to admit that it's nice being on the committee, and talking about the details of what the program is going to look like, and not about whether it's going to happen," he said.

For more information about 2500 Market Street, contact d. Antonetty at 554-2642 or visit the DPH Web site at [www.dph.sf.ca.us](http://www.dph.sf.ca.us).

## Bush, Gore

◀ page 4

under the U.S. Constitution.

The court reversed the Florida decision and remanded the case back to Tallahassee "for further proceedings not inconsistent with this opinion."

Five of the justices acknowledged that there was no way the Florida court could comply in fashioning a procedure and completing a recount by the midnight December 12 deadline stipulated in the Florida law.

The court's three most conservative justices would have gone further in a concurring opinion written by Chief Justice William Rehnquist. They said that while the Florida court normally has the power to interpret election laws written by the state Legislature, Article 2 of the Constitution delegates authority to choose presidential electors specifically to state legislatures.

The Florida court went too far in first extending the statutory certification deadline of electors established by the Legislature, and in their interpretation of what constituted a legal vote, Rehnquist wrote. "Florida statutory law cannot reasonably be thought to require the counting of improperly marked ballots."

## Splinters

The four more liberal members of the court each penned opinions in which they dissented in part or in whole. Justices David Souter and Stephen Breyer were part of the seven-member majority in finding fault with the Florida procedures, though they thought there still may be time to correct them.

Justice John Paul Stevens, joined by Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Breyer, wrote that this was not a case that required federal intervention as the Article 2 considerations "are not substantial."

The Florida Legislature, in writing "a unitary code for all elections" intended the Florida Supreme Court to play the same role in all elections, said Stevens. While admitting the likelihood of counties having differing standards of determining voter intent,

he believed those issues could be resolved by "a single impartial magistrate."

Stevens harshly criticized the majority for "the disenfranchisement of the disenfranchisement of voters" by issuing their stay of the recount on December 9. He closed with bitter words: "Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year's Presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the Nation's confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the rule of law."

Justice Souter thought the majority had been wrong in issuing an order on December 9 that stopped the vote recount in Florida. If the process had been allowed to continue, he believed that the equal protection issues might have been resolved by the time the Electoral College was scheduled to meet on December 18. Justice Breyer joined in that opinion.

In a pointed rebuttal of each of Rehnquist's positions, Justice Ginsburg said, "Federal courts defer to state high courts' interpretations of their state's own law." Justices Stevens, Souter, and Breyer joined in that section of the dissent.

"I cannot agree that the recount adopted by the Florida court, flawed as it may be, would yield a result any less fair or precise than the certification that preceded that recount," Ginsburg wrote, joined only by Stevens.

She ended, "The Court's conclusion that a constitutionally adequate recount is impractical is a prophecy the Court's own judgment will not allow to be tested. Such an untested prophecy should not decide the Presidency of the United States."

Justice Breyer wrote, "The Court was wrong to take this case. It was wrong to grant a stay. It should now vacate that stay and permit the Florida Supreme Court to decide whether the recount should resume." He would have given Florida until December 18 to resolve the issue. The three other liberals joined in some parts of that opinion.

## Reactions

Soon after the decision was released, Ed Rendell, former mayor of Philadelphia and general chair-

man of the Democratic Party, called on Vice President Gore to "act now and concede." He later backed away, qualifying his words to give Gore and his advisers adequate time to fully examine the decision and their legal options.

Harvard Law School Professor Laurence Tribe, a leading figure on Gore's legal team, said that few legal options remain.

James Baker, who headed up Bush's legal efforts, said he was "pleased and gratified" with the majority decision. His tone was one of tired resignation rather than one of vindication.

Some have speculated that the legal outcome may have been different if Gore had sought a hand recount of all "undercounted" ballots in Florida, rather than just in the three counties where he was most likely to gain. ▼

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## GenderPAC

◀ page 10

youth," according to GenderPAC staff. To keep conference registration fees at an affordable rate, presenters are asked to volunteer their time and services in exchange for a discounted conference fee of \$100, which includes all plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables,

trainings, screenings and caucuses, plus two continental breakfasts and two lunches.

Proposals are due to GenderPAC by December 31, and notification will be on or about February 15. For an application form to propose a workshop, contact Gender PAC directly at (202) 462-6610. More information on the conference and the organization can be found at [www.gpac.org](http://www.gpac.org). ▼



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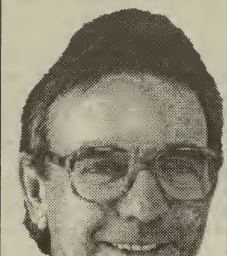
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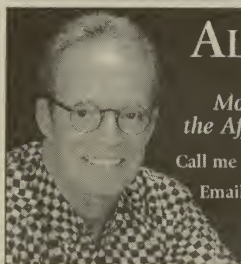
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Issue #52  
Street Date: December 28th  
**ALL**  
Classified/Personals/Display ads  
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ON FRIDAY,  
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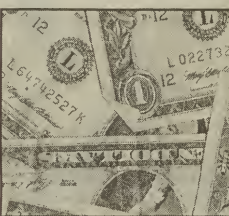
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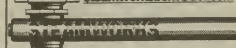
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## LEGAL NOTICES

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 244110**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Mack. 1285 Folsom Street. San  
Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is  
conducted by a general partnership signed  
Kenneth E. Neal. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or  
names on, N/A. The statement was filed  
with the City and County of San Francisco,  
Ca. on 10/11/00.  
NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 244845**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Integument Rejuvenation Center. 2326  
Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca.  
94115. This business is conducted by a  
corporation signed Sanford Schnoll. The  
registrant(s) commenced to transact  
business under the above listed fictitious  
business name or names on, 11/13/00. The  
statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/13/00.  
NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14, 2000

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT  
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME. FILE NO: 0226018-00**  
The following person (persons) have  
abandoned the use of the fictitious business  
name known as: Mack. Located at: 315-  
319 10th Street, San Francisco, Ca.  
94103. The fictitious name referred to  
above was filed in the County of San  
Francisco on: 10/05/00.  
This business was conducted by: a  
individual: Daralt  
NOV. 23, 30, DEC. 7, 14 2000

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT  
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS  
NAME. FILE NO: 0225458-00**  
The following person (persons) have  
abandoned the use of the fictitious business  
name known as: Every Day's A Holiday.  
Located at: 1835 Divisadero St. S.F., CA  
94115. The fictitious name referred to  
above was filed in the County of San  
Francisco on: 9/9/98  
This business was conducted by: a General  
Partnership Barbara Bentley, Byron  
Bentley, John B. McRae signed Byron  
Bentley Partner.  
NOV. 30 DEC. 7, 14, 21, 2000

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 244538**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Every Day's A Holiday 1835 Divisadero  
St. S.F. CA., 94115. This business is  
conducted by a individual signed Byron  
Bentley The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on,  
10/31/00. The statement was filed with the  
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on  
10/30/00.  
NOV. 30, DEC. 7, 14, 21, 2000

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 244997**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Raging Stallion Studios, Inc. 49  
Hartford St. SF., CA 94114. This business  
is conducted by a corporation signed Mark  
A. Para, Secretary. The registrant(s)  
commenced to transact business under the  
above listed fictitious business name or  
names on, 5/19/00 The statement was filed  
with the City and County of San Francisco,  
Ca. on 11/21/00  
NOV. 30, DEC. 7, 14, 21, 2000

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND  
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO FILE NO. 316816**  
In the Matter of the Application of Raphael  
Alexander Quintero. For Change of Name.  
The application of Raphael Alexander  
Quintero for change of name, having been  
filed in Court, and it appearing from said  
application that Raphael Alexander  
Quintero has filed an application proposing  
that his name be changed to Raphael  
Alexander Q. Now therefore, it is hereby  
ordered and directed, that all persons  
interested in said matter do appear before  
this Court in Department 218 on the 16th  
day of January 2000 at 9:00AM., of said  
day to show cause why the application for  
change of name should not be granted.  
NOV 30 DEC 7, 14, 21, 2000

**STATEMENT FILE NO. 245235**  
The following person(s) are doing business  
as: Rob Scott. 1685 Plymouth Avenue,  
San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is  
conducted by an individual signed Robert  
M. Scott. The registrant(s) commenced to  
transact business under the above listed  
fictitious business name or names on, N/A.  
The statement was filed with the City and  
County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/06/00  
DEC. 14, 21, 28, JAN. 4, 2000

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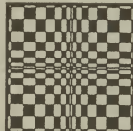


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**Eye candy in coffee-table books**  
Three new volumes of male nude photography, from Hollywood and Germany.  
page 39

**Blonde bombshells**  
Gossipist Liz Smith talks candidly with the BAR.  
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**Goodbye to glamour**  
Rocker David Sylvian turns away from glitter.  
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 50 • 14 December 2000

## Slackerboy Lust and quickie sex

by Gary Morris

'boys Life 3'  
at the  
castro theatre

Lane Janger in the short film *Just One Time*, one part of *Boys Life 3*, playing at the Castro Theatre

In a world where the sound-bite reigns supreme, it's surprising that short films haven't become a more popular part of the cinematic landscape. American attention spans have grown notoriously short over the last few decades, but paradoxically, movies have gotten longer and more ponderous. Canny distributors of shorts have come up with the ideal, perhaps only solution for marketing their mini-movies to a fickle audience — package enough shorts to approximate the running time of a feature, and send them on the repertory rounds. Collections like *Spike and Mike*, *General Chaos*, and more recently, the *Boys Life* series have shown that viewers will indeed respond to shorts en masse.

*Boys Life* is now in its third incarnation, incorporating some of the best shorts culled from queer film festivals around the world. Festival hags will be familiar with several of these works, which have played locally in the past several years. *Boys Life 3* opens Friday, December 15 for an eight-day run at the Castro Theatre.

First up is David Fourier's *Majorettes in Space*, a free-association bit of whimsy that sets up, and nails, a wide range of targets in its six-minute running time. "Of all living beings, only man is capable of humor and poetry" reads an opening subtitle, and Fourier proves both as he samples gay march demonstrations, papal prancings, and the ever-present question of whether or not astronauts fuck ("Igor's sulk-

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS



## 7th Lite-Rockin' Year!

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"Guthorn's impersonation brings goosebumps to the flesh!" SF Chronicle

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Irony of ironies: those "States' Rights" Republicans had to go crying to their Big Mamas in the US Supreme Court to stop the legal counting of ballots in Florida! Whatever happened to their mantra of keeping Washington, DC out of local lives? We can't wait to see the mental gymnastics the Log Cabinettes will have to do over this one to keep themselves in their safe harbor of self-delusion.

Out There is writing this whilst in the grips of a winter bug that has our poor head feeling like it's caught in the grips of a vise... with the entire crepeazoid Florida State Legislature jumping gleefully on the handle.

But we know that the typical Out There peruser has the patience of a saint — a saint with a few brews under his belt, reading his paper in the wan glow of a cigarette machine. So he will understand if this column reads like a headache incarnate.

Not that our readers forgive us our minor flaws, oh no. No sooner was our last issue on the street than we received this missive from an eagle-eyed fan: "Does OT think that he has rendered his readers so soporific that we would not get to the end of his column and discover his fallibility, to wit, 'Joyeaux Noel! Zut alors, ma chérie, c'est Joyeux.' Soporific! We bet you say that to all the boys. Well, that's the last time we meddle in this whole irksome business of holiday cheer, to be sure."

## Magic box

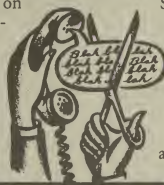
Fortunately, we have no shortage of dish this week, and there's no French required! Scandalous stories about the backstage antics of the star-studded cast of Magic Theatre's *The Late Henry Moss* continue to flood our in-box; if you have yet another sordid anecdote to relate, Out There says take a number!

It seems **Star A** found his dressing room at the charming old Theatre on the Square just a tad too small for his sizable ego, so he



Ned Rorem, foreground, with Jim Holmes, December 15, 1997.

promptly took a crowbar and wrenched a built-in table from its wall. The film star has also installed his own padlock on the dressing room door — consensus of the theatre staff is that **Star A** is in there putting Powder C up his Orifice N.



## Out There

**Star B**, meanwhile, has a bad leg or knee or something — he's getting to be rather an old codger — and thus a legitimate, legal prescription for Lady M. Word is that he wanders the backstage halls

lost in a morphine haze, just like **Eugene O'Neill's** timeless creation **Mary Tyrone**, disconsolate in her dressing gown.

Add to this pharmaceutical cornucopia the high-grade herb which **Stars A & C** are purchasing early and often, thereby building up their "Frequent Flyer" accounts. No wonder wags of the theatre world are calling the Magic's sold-out run *Long Day's Journey Into Shepard!*

But here's the beauty part: **Henry Moss'** Main Man himself, playwright **Sam Shepard**, flew out of this godforsaken backwater immediately following his opening, and we bet we know where to London, of course, where his lady friend **Jessica Lange** was set to open upon the West End stage. Es-saying what role, you ask? Why, none other than **Mary Tyrone**, in *Long Day's Journey Into Night!* Out There asks, why didn't Shepard just stay in town, sit back, and watch the real thing?

## Ned in a minor key

The fifth and latest publication of the diaries of gay composer **Ned Rorem**, *Lies*, is, as usual, a thicket of musical insight and self-regard, as we find Rorem obsessing about his every mention in print, and firing off hundreds of heated letters to the editors of various periodicals. However does the dear have any time left to compose?

The Counterpoint release covers Rorem's diaries from 1986-1999, a poignant time which includes the decline and death from AIDS of his beloved companion **Jim Holmes**, and thus a great deal of mortal reflection from Ned. But there's still plenty of salt and pepper, as you'd expect, and a full cast of glamorous characters.

For example, a 1988 entry: "Visit from [SF author] **Herb Gold**, very centered on homosexuality for one admitted all straight. Asked if he'd ever 'done it' with a man, he says no. Asked if he were forced by the Gestapo to choose between an 80-year-old

harp and a handsome lad, what... But of course, it depends on the acts required."

OT always finds it fun to hear social climbers and name-droppers declaim on their own kind. Here is Rorem: "Reading galleys of [gay poet] **Harold Norse's** silly memoir called *Bastard Angel*, but could as well be called *Little Me* with all its boasting of famous people he's refused to put out for. If years ago I blurbed [author **James] Salter's** first novel with, 'Can be read with the heart, the head, and with one hand,' this book can be read with one hand on the TV remote control."

## Bad sports

Our phone buddy the sports maven found this in the pages of the *USA Today* sports section: "**John Salley**, the ex-NBA player and NBC analyst, in an HBO special on sex and sports debuting Dec. 20, suggested an openly gay NBA player would face 'worse' criticism than **Jackie Robinson** did in breaking baseball's color line. He added that [reputed racist] Atlanta pitcher **John Rocker** 'would be accepted into the NAACP' before a gay player would be accepted in the NBA." Chimes in the **Football Fan**: "Or the NFL or the NHL or the MLB!"

## Backfill boys

From time to time when you write a big-city newspaper column, you find yourself resorting to some fancy footwork to fill those column inches. Imagine, the Hearst-era *Examiner* actually used to run transcripts of call-in remarks from talk radio shows, and then package it as a column!

Using another gambit, an erstwhile managing editor/still a columnist for another SF weekly once played a game of "Name That Columnist" in her space, thus enabling her to re-publish material from other people's columns that was pretty much a waste of many barrels of ink to begin with!

Of course, umpteen years after his death, *Chronicle* columnist **Herb Caen** is still the favorite scribe of SF ruling-class society, helped along by the fact that he is, as previously mentioned, a dead columnist.

But we're still snickering over the piece by that gay magazine writer in which he compared his sex life with that of his editor: "When we first got published," wrote **Scribe X**, "we were guaranteed to have hoards of men climbing over each other to reach us. We're still waiting. However, our editor scores more than a German composer. Hell, he's even got members of the opposite sex calling." Well, shiver our timbers. ▼

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## THEATRE

# Caring about Karen

'Carpenter Xmas' returns to the Marsh

by Richard Dodds

As a teenager, the woman who so uncannily recreates Karen Carpenter every Christmas didn't much care for the brother-and-sister act she regarded as musically corny and politically suspect.

"After all, the Carpenters were Richard Nixon's favorite group," Katie Guthorn said. "It was just the kind of stuff your parents would love, so you had to hate them."

But Guthorn, who has costarred for seven years in *A Karen Carpenter Christmas*, changed her tune once she seriously began studying her subject. "There was a lot going on there musically," Guthorn said, "and after going to the library, we found out a lot of interesting stuff about her, and we began to think it was a little sad that people only remember Karen as an anorexic."

The show, which opens next week at the Marsh, is not a slash-and-burn satire, but neither is it a lounge-act tribute. "One critic called us fluff with an edge," Guthorn said. "That's one of our favorite quotes."

Basically, the show lets you enjoy such songs as "Close to You," "Rainy Days and Mondays," and "For All We Know" without having to feel guilty because the show gently mocks for you the Carpenters and the era that spawned them.

In the show written and directed by Tom Ross, Karen is feeling mopey because she can't find her Christmas spirit, and there is a holiday television special looming. Morey Goldstein, Guthorn's husband of 15 years, plays Richard Carpenter, and Joshua Raoul Brody, Jo-Carol, and Steffanos X play such guest stars as Tom Jones, Barbra Streisand, Ethel Merman, and Alvin and the Chipmunks.

"The show was written for the Marsh, for that stage and that theatrical setup," Guthorn said. "Actually, we were the first show to



Morey Goldstein and Katie Guthorn in *A Karen Carpenter Christmas*

play at the Marsh."

But that wasn't the first time Guthorn and Goldstein had taken on the personas of Karen and Richard. About 10 years ago, they began doing their impressions of the Carpenters in little playlets at such hip music clubs as DNA and the Paradise Lounge.

"The very first time I sang those songs at the Paradise Lounge," Guthorn said, "there were three girls crying in the audience. I thought they were either really drunk, or we had hit some kind of chord."

Since doing the show at the Marsh, Guthorn has noticed a lot of repeat visitors each year, especially among the show's gay fans. "There's a sturdy bunch of guys who come down from the Russian River each year and sit in the front row," she said, "and there are a bunch of Richard fans who sit over by Richard."

Does Guthorn think of *A Karen Carpenter Christmas* as

camp entertainment? "Morey and Tom get into this argument every year," she said. "One of them says it's kitschy and the other says it's campy, and I just leave the room."

What Guthorn enjoys most are "those depressing sad songs" that Karen would often sing. "Richard was a genius in terms of picking these songs for Karen, because there'd always be this little ray of hope that would show up in the bridge, or maybe the last verse would turn things around and say, well, it's probably going to get better. And when you listen to the recordings, she's so convincing. She could obviously go to a very dark place, even if she couldn't do that in the rest of her life."

During most of the year, Guthorn and Goldstein perform as part of Big Bang Beat, a 12-piece party band that plays gigs around the world. It's been hard some years to find time for the Carpenters, and Guthorn isn't sure how long the tradition will continue. "Every year, we think it is the last," she said. "We always do it as if we're never going to do it again."

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Clockwise from top left: Linda Haggerty, CJ Blankenship, Nick Hoffa, and Alex Ackerman in *A Grand Night for Singing*

## Smooth operators

### 'A Grand Night for Singing' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

There isn't a Christmas song among the nearly three dozen Rodgers and Hammerstein songs represented in *A Grand Night for Singing*, but somehow it still feels like holiday entertainment.

Maybe that's because many of these songs come with the same button-pushing familiarity of "Silent Night" or "White Christmas." Whether by design or by accident, the New Conservatory Theatre Center has wrapped up the songs in a tidy gift package that offers a cheery alternative to programs of constant caroling.

*A Grand Night for Singing* began life as a supperclub entertainment before being spruced up for a Broadway run in 1993. At New Conservatory, where the revue is being presented as part of its In Concert series, several songs have been dropped to turn it back into a one-act presentation that

lasts barely 70 minutes.

Walter Bobbie, who would go on to win raves and a Tony Award for directing the revival of *Chicago*, did some clever things when he assembled *A Grand Night for Singing*.

First of all, it's not a greatest-hits collection, but a thoughtful assemblage of both the famous and the worthy. Secondly, instead of a scattershot approach, the songs are arranged to create a thematic arc, starting with new love and proceeding through such stages as lust, confusion, frustration, and commitment. And finally, the lyrics and arrangements have been given fresh hearings, yet without undermining the pleasures of encountering these old friends.

Amazingly, a song like "Maria" (as in, "How do you solve a problem like..."), that I assumed could be sung only by nuns, can actually serve quite effectively as a young man's lament about his flighty girlfriend. And "Surrey with the Fringe on the Top," so seemingly

rooted in a day when people actually used words like "surrey," somehow becomes a credible song of contemporary courtship.

Both of these songs fall to Nick Hoffa, who has the sweetest, most evocative voice in the five-member cast. Of the women, Linda Haggerty scores best in her solos, noticeably "Do I Love You?" and "Something Wonderful."

Alexandra Ackerman, Carmichael Blankenship, and Bobbie L. Duncan are heard to best advantage in the ensemble numbers, which can turn "Some Enchanted Evening" and "I Have Dreamed" into stirring anthems. The production has been smoothly staged by Dyan McBride, and musical director Michael O'Dell provides strong support from the piano. ▼

*A Grand Night for Singing* will run through Jan. 21. Tickets are \$16 and \$32. Call 861-8972.

## Raw space, raw emotions

### Brava Theater's 'Belen - A Book of Hours'

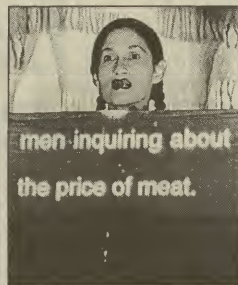
by Richard Dodds

The Brava Theater Center didn't have to worry about any of PG&E's rolling holiday blackouts at its grand opening. A mighty generator was parked outside the theater, offering up its gift of light to first-nighters who passed by "hard hat area" signs that may not yet be out of date. The gutted lobby of the old York Theater remains raw and exposed, with the auditorium several steps ahead of that.

But the rawness could only complement the production chosen to inaugurate this work-in-progress theater that is home to Brava! for Women in the Arts. *Belen - A Book of Hours* itself is raw, both stylistically and emotionally, as it poetically plunges into the psyches of wounded women. Presented by the internationally recognized Mabou Mines, this is quintessential avant-garde theater.

The 75-minute piece takes its name from a sanctuary created in

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Jesusa Rodriguez in *Belen*

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# The calendar artist

Report from First Thursday in December

by Will Shank

Photography dominates the gallery scene citywide this month. Perhaps these more-than-one-of-a-kind artworks are better priced for holiday giving. Be that as it may, there are some sublime offerings.

At Haines Gallery (49 Geary Street, Fifth Floor), photographer Nigel Poor has installed an elegant exhibition titled *Found*. Twelve sets of chiaroscuro photographs are laid out in the pattern of a calendar, with each photograph representing one day in 1998. The artist's process was to scour the streets and sidewalks of whatever neighborhood or city she happened to be in on that day, and to retrieve one object for observation, reflection, and documentation. She has managed, in the centuries-old tradition of still life painting, to dignify homely and humble bits of debris by objectifying them. Her dramatically lit, black-and-white studio photographs force the viewer to focus on every detail of the ordinary, but sometimes symbolically charged, cast-off scraps from other people's lives. An embossed, or "debossed," identifying inscription in the corner of each richly beautiful image imparts another level of gravity, like a tombstone memorial.

The 365 photographs on the gallery walls are complemented by pedestals which hold Poor's notebooks, detailing the circumstances and location of her "finds," along with a Polaroid documentation of the object. Far more than an archivist, she manages to impart dignity to the cast-off object, and we are forced to draw a parallel to the plight of the cast-off members of society who also occupy the sidewalks of the world. *Found* closes on January 10, 2001.

Next door at Rena Bransten Gallery (77 Geary Street, Second Floor), an installation of European artists working in large formats continues the theme of the man-made object as focus for the photographer. All three photographers, Miriam Bäckström, Matthias Hock, and Edwin Zwak-



"6.5.98 Columbarium, SF, CA," by Nigel Poor, at Haines Gallery

man, train their cameras on urban "sets," some of them literally just that. Sweden's Bäckström photographs film sets, and the fiction of the interiors is betrayed by partially painted walls and missing ceilings. Zwakman, from the Netherlands, constructs and photographs his own sets. Most compelling are the enormous urban views of Germany's Hock, working in Paris, where his urban views feature more negative than positive space. (Closes January 6, 2001.)

## Animal snaps

A further parallel peeks out of the back room of Gallery Paule Anglim (14 Geary Street). Behind a presentation of the latest paintings of iconoclastic Beat artist Wally Hedrick are the deceptively

homey "snapshots" of Alice Shaw. In *Dreams and Harsh Realities: Photographs about Perception*, Shaw features the sort of snaps that you have in your photo album, all of them featuring artificiality disguised as nature: flowered wallpaper, a stuffed animal. (Ends December 29.)

Among the images installed through December 29 at Fraenkel Gallery (49 Geary, Fifth Floor), in the second room is a sadly comical Diane Arbus black-and-white photo which appears at first glance to be a sylvan landscape, but which is in fact a wall mural in a building in New York City. The "landscape" continues across an electrical outlet near the bottom of the composition. It is a fitting segue from a handsome installa-

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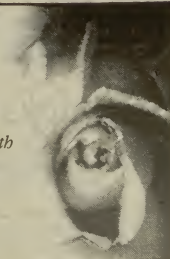
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# Lives of the (musical) poets

Six books as gifts for the holiday season

by Stephanie von Buchau

**H**ave you seen the latest digital device? You hold a plastic screen in your lap and read a book you've downloaded from the Internet. I don't want to sound like a troglodyte, but when I read a book, the only thing I want in my lap is a cat in the shape of a warm meatloaf.

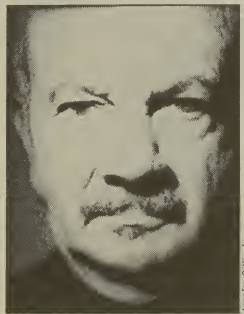
So, on the grounds that there are still a few of you out there who love books in their analog form, love people who love books, and like to give big fat volumes to said booklovers as holiday gifts, here is my annual check-

list of the year's giftiest musical tomes.

**Le Grand Tango: The Life and Music of Astor Piazzolla** by Maria Susana Azzi and Simon Collier; Oxford University Press, \$30. Here is the first scholarly book about Argentina's greatest composer (sorry, Ginastera fans, but nobody listens to your guy for pure pleasure). It has appropriate notes, attributions, lists of compositions — all the stuff that distinguishes a "real" composer from a pop star.

Everybody now acknowledges what was only accepted by a few when Piazzolla was alive — that the bandoneon master blended

his native tango with jazz, classical chamber music (he adored Bach and Schubert, playing both on the bandoneon) and other styles to create a new music. He called it "nuevo tango" and insisted it was to listen to, not to dance to. As a result, tango traditionalists, anchored to the rigid dance band music of the '30s *orquesta tipica*, didn't have much use for Piazzolla.



Composer Astor Piazzolla

Too bad, because he'll be remembered when they are long forgotten. I rank Piazzolla with Bartok, Kodaly, Szysmanowski and other great musical nationalists of the previous century. The authors of this biography agree, documenting the growth of Piazzolla's compositional talent at the same time that they chronicle his self-destructive life as a touring band leader. Sometimes the musical analysis is skimpy or superficial. Is "Oblivion," the beautiful song he wrote for Marco Bellocchio's Pirandello film, *Enrico IV*, really "perilously close to schmalz," or are the authors thinking of Pablo Ziegler's perfume commercial arrangement with Orpheus? In any case, an absorbing and informative book that will send you in search of new Piazzolla experiences.

**Big man, big ego**

**Herbert von Karajan: A Life in Music** by Richard Osborne; Northeastern University Press, \$35. The Austrian conductor, who died in 1989, has been subjected to an unfair barrage of received opinion, especially from the British, who just can't get their facts straight about Karajan's "Nazi past," but who, as the conductor himself used to say in refusing to defend himself, "will believe what they want to believe, regardless of the facts."

Osborne, while demonstrating that Karajan was an autocrat, an egotist (big surprise; all successful conductors are egotists; it's not possible to stand up in front of a

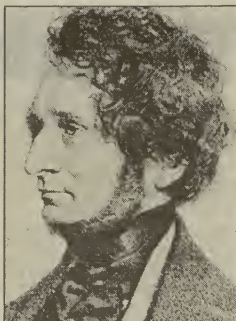


Conductor Herbert von Karajan

huge audience that knows nothing and an orchestra that knows everything if you don't think you are the best at what you do) and sometimes not very nice, produces all the proof, documents and commentary necessary to let you make up your own mind. If you still don't like the maestro's conducting, fine, but after 850 pages of a judicious (and juicy) read, I'm inclined to agree with mezzo Christa Ludwig, who, when asked what Karajan reminded her of, replied, "*Le bon Dieu*."

**Berlioz: The Making of an Artist (Vol. 1); Servitude and Greatness (Vol. 2)** by David Cairns; University of California Press, \$40 each. What does it say about book publishing when the best music books are produced by university presses? (Answer: Too many congloms sell too much Martha Stewart and too many self-help tomes to be bothered with anything serious.) The best thing about this Berlioz bio (and the two books above) is that though they are smack up-to-date with the latest information and scholarship, they are written with unfussy, readable ease. Cairns' achievement is more notable because he brings the era as well as the man to life.

In three years we celebrate the birth bicentenary of this greatest classical romantic composer (no, that is not an oxymoron). In advance of the event, which will probably mean the usual commemorative coffee mugs and endless repetitions of the *Symphonie fantastique*, Cairns (a British conductor, critic, scholar) has corrected and refurbished Vol. 1 of this set (published a decade ago) and given us nearly 900 new pages, tracing the composer's volcanic love life and the works of his maturity, including that much-mutilated masterpiece, *Les Troyens*, which San Francisco Opera delivered part of so vigorously in the '60s. The passionate engagement of Cairns' prose, especially when Berlioz was an old man, is almost frightening.



Hector Berlioz in 1846

**Pithy galore**

If those three books were my favorites this year, others — a little less rigorous perhaps — gave much pleasure and would undoubtedly be received with such, especially by the opera fan on your gift list. **55 Years in Five Acts: My Life in Opera** by Astrid Varnay and Donald Arthur (Northeastern University Press, \$30) is an entertaining autobiography by the outspoken Swedish-American dramatic soprano who is many a Wagnerite's ideal Brünnhilde. Pithy comments on stage direction and colleagues (usually generous, she thoroughly loathed Rudolf Bing and Herbert von Karajan) and a welcome absence of "then I sang" and "then I met" fatuity make this volume a splendidly opinionated read.

**Leonard Warren: American Baritone** by Mary Jane Phillips-Matz (Amadeus Press, \$39.95) is typical of this author's painstaking research methods — almost more than you wanted to know. She exhaustively documents the events leading up to Warren's death on stage at the Metropolitan Opera in 1960. (I was at the War Memorial that night, ushering for Birgit Nilsson's local debut in *Turandot*, when they told us Warren had died during a performance of *La Forza del Destino*). Even if Matz doesn't succeed in making us like this stuffed shirt, she gives us enough "all" with the warts to remind us what a magnificent artist Warren was — the finest non-Italian Verdi singer I've ever heard. As always with this series of opera bios from Portland, the indices are worth the price of admission.

Finally, for pure fun, there is Helena Matheopoulos' **The Great Tenors from Caruso to the Present** (Vendome Press, \$40), which came out last year but is just crossing my desk. From Gigli to Carreras, with pit-stops for Bjoerling, del Monaco, Pavarotti and Domingo, Matheopoulos offers sharp thumbnail sketches, gobs of fabulous portraits — mercy, but Corelli was a hunk — and even a 77-minute CD of "best hits," including Richard Tauber's "Dein ist mein ganzes Herz" and Alfredo Kraus' incompatible "Pourquoi me réveiller." This heady stuff reminds us why tenors are still the Eiffel Towers of opera. No pun intended. ▼

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# David Sylvian's sylvan retreat

## 'Everything and Nothing' exchanges glamour for soul

by Mark Mardon

Nineteen years ago, David Sylvian was at the top of the music game, a flamboyant New Wave celebrity riding the crest of popularity with a British band called Japan, the precursor to and model for Duran Duran, Depeche Mode and a host of other pretenders to the New Wave throne. The music press took ample note of the highly photogenic youth, eagerly showcasing his strikingly androgynous image on magazine covers. In fact, Sylvian was among the most photographed rock celebrities of the late 1970s and early '80s, and critics and fans alike agreed he was one of rock's most beautiful men.

Sylvian was in a league with Bowie, inhabiting a glittery world of New Wave artiness and faux superficiality that removed the grit from rock and moved it into the

realm of theatricality and pretension, giving it a thoroughly queer sensibility. "New Romanticism," some called the infectious, fun, quirky vibes of Japan, Spandau Ballet, Adam & the Ants, the ubiquitous Duran Duran and others of their ilk. As the driving force behind Japan, arguably the most brilliant (if initially underrated) of the New Wave pack, lyricist, composer and vocalist Sylvian was a prince seemingly destined to be king. With the solid backing of Virgin Records and a global fanbase, Japan was an international smash hit. Had Sylvian wanted to, he could have ridden the wave on and on, higher and higher, the way so many others have.

But Sylvian's inherently shy nature would not allow it to be. "The notion of having greater success and being a bigger star was completely uninteresting to me," says Sylvian, now living comfortably amid the woodlands of New Eng-

land, a married man with kids (his wife is vocalist/poet Ingrid Chavez), hardly the infamous party boy who reportedly engaged in all the pleasures and pastimes of all New Wave rockers, namely bisexuality and drugs galore. It was all part of the gloss he decided to abandon: "Admittedly it was interesting when I was younger, but having had a taste of that, it wasn't what I wanted. I really wanted to stay creatively vital, as opposed to commercially viable."

### 'Ghosts' revisited

Now, having just compiled a two-CD retrospective album, *Everything and Nothing* (Virgin Records), the icon of that time has mellowed into a serious musician with a quiet, autumnal demeanor, reflecting on his career and trying to deflect criticism from those who now accuse him of debasing his former art by re-recording and releasing new renditions of old songs, including one of Japan's hits, "Ghosts," off the 1982 *Tin Drum* album.

"I'm not messing with the past," insists Sylvian, his voice soft, the British accent slight, his eagerness to become seriously introspective apparent. "The past is still accessible to those who want to listen to the original. I really just selected songs I thought I could make a connection with emotionally, and that I could better the performance of technically as a vocalist."

The new album flows with a rich quietness and sophistication that may leave hard-core New Wave purists stuck in the mud, but will lift the spirits of anyone who appreciates what maturity and refinement of style and technique can produce in an artist. The challenge for Sylvian in producing an overview of his career was to make the work coherent. That might be easy for an old-fashioned torch singer belting out album after album of standards, but Sylvian, with a Morrissey-like vocal style, is anything but old-fashioned. His oeuvre is strikingly original while hugely disparate in styles across time. He has worked with many of the world's most celebrated modern musicians — Ryuichi Sakamoto, Robert Fripp, Bill Nelson, Holger Czukay, Bill Frisell, Kenny Wheeler and Steve Jensen among them — creating



David Sylvian: less enamored with look, more concerned with feel

idiosyncratic but accessible albums that have earned him a steady following long after he pulled out of the New Wave pack, abandoning celebrity in the early '80s to stake a claim for artistic purity. Pulling everything together into a package that makes some kind of sense, without compromising integrity, meant being deeply in touch with his core, accepting only what he feels to be true and discarding any trappings of insincerity.

"One problem for me was the lack of continuity over a couple decades or more," says Sylvian, "because the production qualities change all the time. My style of singing has changed dramatically. I thought the leap from one period of time to another would just be too marked, and really wouldn't work as a listening experience."

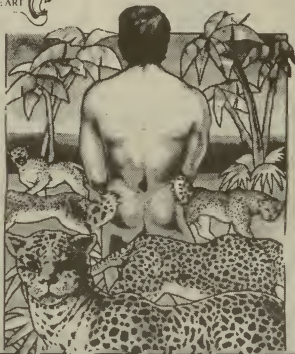
Sylvian's effort has yielded an album of exquisite artistry that flows smoothly from old hits to new, previously unreleased songs, his smoky, textured voice sliding smoothly in and out of numbers, leaving ample room for sexy in-

strumentation. It's all richly diverse in style yet held together thematically — lounge music for the 21st century, including jazz-combo stylings mixed in with synthesizer and samplers, or folded in with orchestral and rock-band arrangements. It's New Wave redux, older and wiser, less enamored with look, and more concerned with feel.

The new album and its progenitor are riding comfortably under the radar of pop celebrity, having settled comfortably for understated cool. It makes one wonder, though, why Sylvian abandoned the glamour of his androgynous days.

"Oh dear, how can I answer that?" he responds. "It tended to stand between the work and the audience. It was a very powerful image, and the image was strong enough to draw people to it regardless of the work, regardless of the content. That's what an icon's all about. I ultimately felt the image stood in the way of real communication, so I wanted to do away with it." ▼

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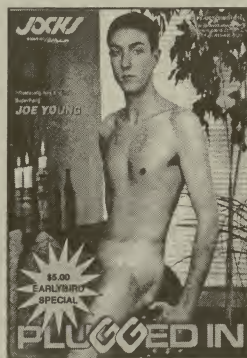
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## DISCS

# Alas, poor Laurence

Olivier's classic 'Hamlet' is out on DVD

by Gary Morris

Criterion is continuing its mining of the wonderfully rich Janus film catalog with the recent release of Laurence Olivier's 1948 *Hamlet* on DVD. In terms of extras, this release is rather skimpy. Per the box, it has a "beautiful digital transfer with restored image and sound. English subtitles for the deaf and hearing impaired," and "optimal image quality: RSDL dual-layer edition." As disappointing as this will be to those who have come to expect plenty of supplementals on their DVD (audio commentaries, photo galleries, etc.), there's ample compensation in the film itself. Olivier's *Hamlet* has always enjoyed a reputation as the best of the cinema adaptations of Shakespeare's seminal play, and the present pristine version only bolsters that argument.

One of three Olivier-directed Shakespeare plays (along with *Henry V*, 1944, and *Richard III*, 1954), this *Hamlet* won Oscars for both Best Picture and Best Actor. What distinguishes the film from the umpteen adaptations before and after it are the mood and Olivier's sometimes brooding, sometimes crazed performance as the doomed Dane. Few actors have successfully made the transition to director — Charles Laughton, with *Night of the Hunter*, is probably the best of the lot — but Olivier shows a surprising command of the medium. His *Hamlet* is flashy indeed, evincing a very cinematic mastery of atmosphere from the opening credits, which roll over an arresting image of a dark castle surrounded by a fog-drenched sea with crashing waves. The mood is elegantly Gothic, almost expressionist, with chiaroscuro lighting on the flagstones and battlements of the castle; gleaming turrets; and most effectively, swirling fogs that constantly remind us of Hamlet's unhinged mental state.

Olivier also doesn't stint on the Shakespearean "shocks," those melodramatic touches that must have made contemporary viewers squirm in their seats. The best of these is the ghostly image of Hamlet's dead father, a beauti-

fully visualized, credibly ghoulish figure that floats in the swirling darkness above him on the battlements. One of the most subtly poignant scenes in the film is the ghost's aching farewell: "Adieu, adieu, remember me." Another fine sequence that demonstrates Olivier's visual panache is the drowning of Ophelia (Jean Simmons, uncharacteristically blonde), a poetic image indeed of Hamlet's amour floating slowly out of frame in her flower-strewn watery grave.

## Engorged frame

With his film's wealth of flashbacks, inventive set-pieces, gliding camera movements, and close-ups, it's clear that Olivier took his work as a director seriously. But it's also no surprise that he reserves the most lingering, even idolatrous close-ups for himself, engorging the frame with his handsome visage. In one daring scene he uses a crane shot to swoop from a very high angle into a choker close shot of his sweating angelic face. This works most of the time as a way to (literally) pull the viewer into the character, but it has a problematic element, too. In being less generous with the other actors, Olivier dilutes some of the chemistry he might have created between the Dane and those around him. One expects more sizzle between Hamlet and Ophelia, but he's so self-absorbed in their scenes together that she sometimes appears as a kind of decorative prop.

This intense concentration on Hamlet at the expense of the other characters has the virtue of increasing the audience's sense of his isolation and lonely grandeur, and makes his possible madness that much more real. Of course, fans of gay subtext will find much to love in the one relationship that does set off sparks: Hamlet and his sexy devoted pal Horatio (Norman Wooland). Perhaps the latter was dazzled by Hamlet's arch stares, eloquent hissy-fits, and seizures that skirt the *grand mal*. Olivier's delicately peroxidized locks also contribute to his irresistible charms.

Olivier's discernibly gay performance continues to entrance into the 21st century. Simmons

seems out of her depth as Ophelia, though to her credit she underplays, avoiding the noisy hysterics too few actresses have resisted in taking on this classic madwoman role. Eileen Herlie deftly sketches Queen Gertrude and milks the Oedipal element to the max with lingering kisses with her son, and masochistic, spread-eagled collapses under his verbal assaults. Basil Sydney makes a reasonable King Claudius, but better still are the character roles: Peter Cushing as a very fey Osric, Stanley Holloway as a droll gravedigger, and supremely, Felix Aylmer as old Polonius, whose penchant for gossip earns him a knife in the heart.

Some viewers have quibbled with aspects of this version — for example, the changing of many of the soliloquies to interior monologues (including the "to be or not to be" speech) and the deletion *en toto* of the two fascinating characters Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. (One observer has estimated that 40% of the original play was cut, though that seems an overstatement.) And some may prefer the histrionics of Kenneth Branagh's 1996 adaptation or the cheesy carry-on of Zeffirelli's 1990 film or the contempo corporate setting of Michael Almereyda's recent version. Interestingly, both the Branagh and the Almereyda updated the setting, the former to

the 19th century, the latter to today. Part of the charm of Olivier's version is that it didn't do that, opting instead for a fully fleshed-out period feel (complemented by a beautiful period-derived score by William Walton). The film's Gothic grimness and formal, stylized acting give it a resonance that seems to come from much farther back than five decades, indeed from Shakespeare's own time. ▼



Laurence Olivier in *Hamlet*

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## Belen

◀ page 32

Mexico City in 1683 for impoverished women, a noble-sounding idea that turned out to be more prison than refuge. American poet Catherine Sasanov researched the history of Recogimiento de Belen, and created 12 poems that were subsequently translated into Spanish.

Music was added by Liliana Felipe, who sings the pieces in a rich, expressive voice from an on-stage piano while the original English texts are projected, somewhat erratically, on the surfaces of the set. Actress Jesusa Rodriguez provides a vivid visual complement to the words, silently enacting a series of seemingly mundane chores that grow increasingly manic.

Even without words, Rodriguez is a remarkable performer. There is something of the silent-film comic in her work, which can jerk about like a movie

missing some of its frames. But even with these suggestions of a humorous antecedent, we can't escape the tragic desperation at the core of Rodriguez's actions.

Mariana Carreno, the third woman in the cast, periodically appears from an elevated opening to perform, in English, a succession of "outbursts" about her struggles. On opening night, Carreno occasionally stumbled over the words, undercutting their power.

Ruth Maleczek, a co-founder of Mabou Mines, has directed *Belen* with a forceful energy that is not about being tidy. This is a work that is free of many of the trap-pings and structure that we usually associate with theater, and it is perhaps best to just let the sights and sounds wash over you. ▼

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by Jim Piechota

*Vertical Intercourse* by Paul Reed; Black Books, \$16

After a decade-long literary hiatus spent battling AIDS, the multi-faceted and much missed local author Paul Reed is back with his third novel, an invigorating, socially germane story set in contemporary San Francisco, where "it is almost always cold, especially in the summer." The novel's name alone is sure to garner attention (not to mention the prone model on the cover), but the "intercourse" within the book's pages is of the communal variety. Reed introduces us to a bevy of eclectic characters whose rapid-fire barbs and witticisms are meant for fun, even when the treacherous land mine of living as middle-aged men in the Castro District seems anything but.

The novel is narrated in first person, by an unnamed, anxious single gay editor, who struggles with a variety of life-altering issues, among them the fear of an impending 40th birthday, coming to terms with a past riddled with addiction rehabilitation, and a nagging case of survivor's guilt from losing "the third or fourth generation of friends" to AIDS. These bulky problems make for melancholy days indeed, but fortunately his search for a compatible boyfriend is swift, successful, and virtually stress-free.

Identifying with this central character provides gleeful fun as he dictates a slew of ongoing activities with the gracious verve of a close friend, in passages reminiscent of a Maupin novel where strength of heart is everything. Whimsical pals Charlton and Michael, the aforementioned budding new love Anson, and the intermittently monogamous roommates Kent and Scotty form a unique, endearing circle of friends. When Michael's health and the health of his home nurse "Mad

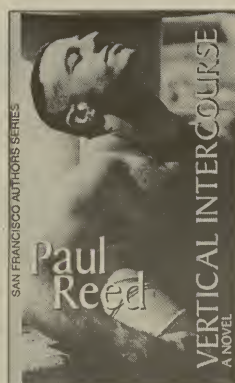
Mama Jones" begin to deteriorate, coinciding with Scotty's startling news from his doctor, their alliance is put to a higher test.

## Kiljoy was here

The narrator's real trial, like so many of our own, is maintaining a stoic front in the face of his friend's mounting illnesses and his own HIV-positive status, and in coming to terms with the fact that AIDS continues to decimate the once-vibrant gay scene he's come to know, despite promising medical breakthroughs. This retrospection is agonizing, but with the aid of a peculiarly blasé Duboce Triangle psychotherapist (aptly named Dr. Kiljoy), he examines these "irresolvable" issues, though nothing particularly rapturous ever seems to be accomplished.

Reed's prose is engrossing and insightful, balancing pathos and pleasure skillfully, and he gets kudos for his empathetic exploration of what it means to be a gay man facing middle age, a delicate subject often skirted by more mainstream gay novelists.

This author knows his material and provides plenty of head-nodding moments, even for readers outside the Castro bubble. The lurching, sluggish Muni Metro rail system is skewered as "surely the world's slowest and most inefficient transit system," though Reed



concedes that it does provide plenty of cruising opportunities where moments of "highly-charged, lowdown lewdness" can

be had. And of course, many popular neighborhood haunts and a few bars and sex clubs make cameo appearances, all described with the marked precision of a true local.

Perhaps it is this slyly casual namedropping that's to blame for sapping any plot structure, but Reed's dead-on dialogue (and big dick commentary), piercing social interpretations, and the romantically-rendered Northern California backdrop should win readers over and leave them lusting for more. *Vertical Intercourse* is a deceptively absorbing, heartfelt novel, notably marking the return of an author who's been away for far too long. ▼

# Glass and nature

by Yvonne Zipter

*Murano: Glass from the J. Paul Getty Museum* by Mark Doty; Getty Trust Publications, \$14.95

*The Leaf and the Cloud: A Poem* by Mary Oliver; Da Capo Press, \$22

What does it mean that two of our most preeminent contemporary queer poets should both come out with single-poem volumes in the same month in the same year? I can't imagine it's anything more than a marvelous coincidence, but it does seem remarkable that both Mark Doty and Mary Oliver should have done just that. Another similarity between the two books is that they are both (or seem to be) written for someone dear to each of them — in Doty's case, his friend, the poet Lynda Hull, who died in a car accident a number of years ago; and in Oliver's case, her longtime partner, to whom the book is dedicated.

From there, though, one can

start counting the differences: Doty's book — an art book, really — features photos of glass pieces from the Getty Museum with the lines of his poem superimposed at the edges of the images; Oliver's book is a more standard text-on-white-paper affair. Doty's poem is broken by nothing more than stanzas, while Oliver's poem is broken into named sections, which are further broken into numbered sections, which are in turn sometimes broken into multiple stanzas. Doty's overt subject is of the manmade world, whereas Oliver's is primarily the natural world. Doty's poem is beautiful, complex, and multilayered; Oliver's poem is often self-conscious and abstract and only occasionally shows flashes of her usual brilliance.

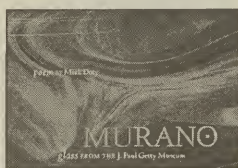
When Oliver is talking about the particulars of the natural world, she is at her best: "the green pea/ climbs the stake/ on her sugary muscles" or, "Once/ in the woods/ snake came/ like a whip/ like a piece of circle/ like black water/ flowing down the hill." There are moments, too, when

Oliver is wholly in the world of humans, that shine: "Bless the hips/ for they are cunning beyond all other machinery."

But much of this long, seven-part poem does not seem up to Oliver's usual standard, wallowing in abstraction ("I will sing for the veil that never lifts./ I will sing for the veil that begins, once in a lifetime, maybe, to life./ I will sing for the rent in the veil," and so on) or getting lost in long catalogs, some of which are decidedly Whitmanesque, but many of which lapse into sentimentality and with no clear context for the slender connections apparently being made (e.g., "first child/ speaking its first words/ first peach on the tree/ first grapes/ first hand-holding").

In the end, a poem should exhibit some sense of unity, and *The Leaf and the Cloud* seems to hover somewhere between a love poem and a leave-taking, with its many references to death and long lists of good-byes ("Think of me/ when you see the evening star/ Think of me when you see the wren"). Let's hope this is not, in

fact, Mary Oliver literally saying good-bye to the world; among other things, I cannot accept that this is the best epitaph she can write for herself.



## Fresh struck

In what stark contrast, then, Mark Doty's little poem/book *Murano* stands from *The Leaf and the Cloud*. The images of the poem are fresh and crisp, the details scrupulous and lush, and he weaves together the two topics of his poem — Murano glass (and the city it comes from, Venice) and his friend Lynda Hull — almost seamlessly: "Is this/ what becomes of art/ the hard-won permanence/ outside of time? A struck/ match-head of a city/ un-

page 48 ►

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## PHOTOGRAPHY

# Male nudes through three lenses

Best expensive photo books of the year

by John F. Karr

*As I See It* by Greg Gorman;  
powerHouse Books, \$60

*Hollywood Voyeur* by Michael  
Childers; Janssen Publishers,  
\$79.79

*20 Men* by Kingdome 19;  
Janssen Publishers, \$79.95

**O**f the many new and expensive books of male photography that are calling for acquisition, here are three I consider to be the best of this gift-giving season. Greg Gorman's *As I See It* is a book of quiet beauty that appreciates upon reflection. Michael Childers' *Hollywood Voyeur* is a massive dose of instantly gratifying eye candy, which, if I'm not mistaken, has some staying power. And Kingdome 19's *20 Men* is the rare work that finds a reverential tone in the beauty of a man with an erection.

Greg Gorman's *As I See It* is certainly the most anticipated. The celebrity photographer has teased us in several previous books with a mere handful of strikingly beautiful nudes. In this collection of 200 duotone plates of 46 models (which include an ingeniously forthright Alexis Arquette, and the heartbreakingly classic beauty of the young Tony Ward), Gorman finally steps forward to join the ranks of well-established commercial photographers who have rejoiced in the male nude, like Weber, Ritts, and Scavullo. But like several of his predecessors, and most likely with his American fan base in mind, Gorman's book begins with a defense of the male nude as an art form — a boilerplate apology which really ought to be passé.

And perhaps going a bit out of his way to avoid comparison with his peers, Gorman has avoided the overly built (thought not the overly hung), and, more notably, the overly posed. He seeks to reveal individual personality through the hard lighting that produces strong shadows, and the isolation of an undecorated set. If I can't help



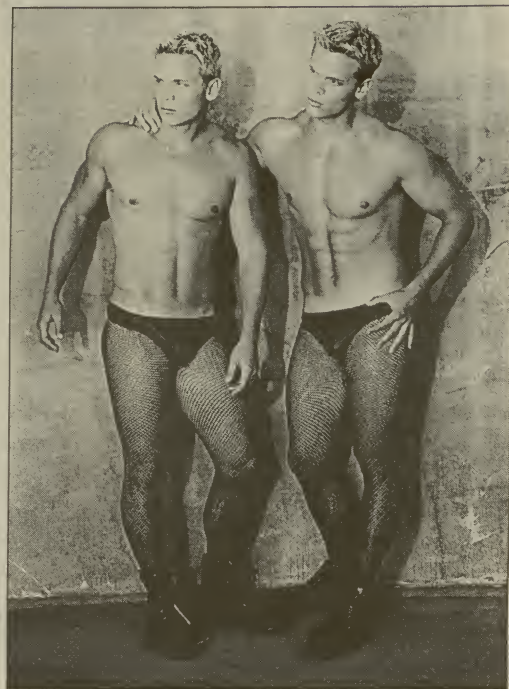
From Greg Gorman's *As I See It*

feeling that his policy of non-interference hasn't been sometimes a little too trusting of his subjects' undeveloped posing skills, or his point of view too passive for non-celebrity subjects, I admired the photograph's sumptuous printing. Gorman's tonal palette has inky blacks of midnight depth, and skin tones of chocolatey brown and amber stillness. *As I See It* is not, then, a book for the daylight, but one that should be savored after dark and in quiet repose, when the unaffected simplicity of Greg Gorman's work can shed its unforced, honest glow.

#### No regrets

There's no apology in the Preface to Michael Childers' *Hollywood Voyeur*. Childers, a stalwart of the

entertainment industry since the '70s, has been a vastly formative artist and cultural barometer, as creator of the images for *Oh! Cal-*



From Michael Childers' *Hollywood Voyeur*

*cuttal*, and as a founding photographer of *Interview* and *After Dark* magazines. That doyenne of Hollywood's gay screenwriters, Gavin Lambert, prefaces the book by celebrating the "homoerotic surreal-

ism" that informs Childers' imaginative response to celebrity and fashion photography.

I may disagree with Lambert, however, on the effect of Childers' page 48 ►



From Kingdome 19's *20 Men*

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Tiger's Photo Courtesy of David Forest Entertainment



# OUT & ABOUT



Dario D'Ambrosia and his company perform *The Prince of Madness* at the Gershwin Theater. See Wednesday.

## Calendare by Mark Mardon

### Save the Redstone

The benefit performance couldn't come at a better time, the aptly termed "giving season," when many of the more prosperous members of our LGBT community scan about for worthy tax-deductible charitable causes in which to sink some of their hard-earned dough. The fundraiser on Tuesday, December 19, "**All We Want for Christmas is The Redstone**," comes to the public courtesy of **The Lab**, one of our fair city's most engagingly experimental art spaces. The Lab is also a principal tenant of **The Redstone Building**, the sprawling brick-and-mortar complex on 16th St. at Capp, in the heart of what many consider to be the most disputable section of the Mission District.

For more than 30 years, thanks in large part to The Redstone's iffy location, a host of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations, individual artists, and small local businesses have managed to cling to office, performance, and studio spaces in the building without fear of precipitously rising rents, eviction, or the conversion of their beloved edifice to pricey "live-work lofts."

For a while it seemed possible the old brick lady would escape the wrenching changes being exacted on the arts community by the ongoing space-crunch that stems in large part from dot-com prosperity. No longer is this the case. Every tenant in the The Redstone, including (but by no means limited to) **Luna Sea Women's Performance Project**, **Theatre Rhinoceros**, **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc.**, and the **Homeless Children's Network** is getting nervous about the strong possibility of the building's being sold for conversion to dot-com offices.

To help avert a buy-out and keep the building a safe-haven for struggling art and artists, The Lab has lined up an outstanding array of local entertainers to create a lively benefit show. On the schedule are spoken-word by **Beth Lisick**, **Jaime Salcedo-Malo**, **James Tracy**, and **Peter Plate**; music by **Pamela Z**, **Dr. Friendly's Fractal Circus**, **DM Feelings** and **the Grid**; and the **SF Labor Chorus**; video by **Video Activists' Network**; and a presentation by the **Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence**.

In addition, **Walter Johnson** of the **San Francisco Labor Council**, **Renee Saucedo** of the **Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition**, and the new **SF District 6 Supervisor** are all invited speakers. Art and politics definitely mingle at this mixer.

This event comes at a critical moment in San Francisco's arts history, when many artists and performers who have long lived and worked here are abandoning ship, moving to outlying, lower-rent areas, in some cases forced by eviction, in other cases needing to be closer to viable arts spaces. Potential newcomers are having to stay away, unable to find affordable housing here, much less studio space. Those who want to carry on the city's tradition of community theater, modern dance, rock 'n' roll, painting, sculpting, poetry and the like seem like endangered species.

The Lab's benefit show is a perfect holiday gift-giving chance for the dot-com community to give back. After all, without the rich offbeat culture this city has traditionally provided to everyone living and working here—including those in dot-com industries—life here would be merely good. But face it, upscale oxygen bars just aren't enough. To have a truly fabulous city, you've got to have funky, cheap places like The Redstone around. ▼

**All We Want for Christmas is The Redstone**, a performance benefit for the Redstone Tenants Assn., takes place Tuesday, Dec. 19 at 8 p.m. at The Lab, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). \$7-\$100 sliding. Reservations: 864-8855.

## Fri 15

### ODC Theater

Choreographer Sara Shelton Mann presents "Survival/Phase 1," an evening of new dance featuring nine dancers and live music by Norman Rutherford and the Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble. With an opening piece by Yannis Adoniou and his company Kunst-Stoff, plus videography by Austin Forbord. \$15, 8pm. Also on Sat. & Sun., Dec. 16-17. 3153 17th St. (at Shotwell). Tix/info: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com; www.odcdance.org

### Club Room at One St. Francis Place

Men of All Colors together (MACT) hosts their fifth annual "One Day Holiday Party," the continuation of a tradition started by Richard Brown-scombe and Gary, where priority is given to the "one"—the individual—and to sharing that person's holiday traditions with others who enjoy celebrating the "differents." Free. 7-10pm. Corner of 3rd St. & Folsom South of Market. Info: 675-0201; www.go.to/mactsfba

### Gershwin Theater

SF Lyric Opera presents Puccini's *Tosca*, sung in Italian with English subtitles. A saga of lust, sadism, murder and true love set in the revolutionary era of Napoleonic Europe. \$20 gen'l adm.; \$15 seniors; \$10 students. 7:30pm. Also on Dec. 16 (2pm & 7:30pm) and 17 (2pm). The Ira & Leonore S. Gershwin Theater, 2350 Turk Blvd. (at Masonic). Info/tix: 921-7410; www.tickets.com

## Sat 16

### CELLspace

"Fifth Annual Winter Solstice Crafts Faire," in which local artists and craftspersons will be selling their original and unusual crafts, from the dangerous to the beautiful, including puppets, sculpture, jewelry, paintings and fashions, baked goods, chai tea, and edible art such as SLUG's Urban Herbals jams, herbal vinegars, honey and more. Crafting tables will be available for the public to create cards and gifts from recycled materials. Proceeds benefit artisans and CELLspace, a volunteer-run collaborative arts center fostering community through art and education. Free entry (admission to Sat. night performance cabaret is \$10-\$15 sliding). 10am-6pm. Also on Sun., Dec. 17. 2050 Bryant St. (btwn 18th & 19th). Info: 970-9797; www.cellspace.org

### Dance Mission

Eclipse presents "Passion 2000: A Winter Solstice Celebration," an original multigenerational protean piece that intermingles theater, dance and original composition. The title "Passion" refers to the ascension of the spirit, birth, rebirth, and the ever-changing cycles of life and death that are marked by the Winter Solstice, originally a pagan tradition, a time when people gather around the fire to find comfort in human contact and storytelling. The story tells of a Bride on the eve of her wedding. She receives news of her groom's death. She persists with the help of three visiting muses and the constant reminder that everything is gestation and birthing. Featuring Eclipse veterans Samantha Blanchard, Deborah Ben-Eliezer, Susan Donham, Kate Joyce and Marisa Pugliano along with newcomers Deborah Ballesteros-Spake, Maggie Kelly and youth performer Tulin Kinaci. With healing ritual and drumming circle (bring a drum). \$15-\$30 sliding. 8pm performance; 9pm ritual & drum circle. Also on Sun., Dec. 17 & Thur., Dec. 21. 173316 24th St. (at Mission). Info/tix: 826-4401.

### Aunt Charlie's Lounge

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," a night of drag cabaret hosted by Kristy

Cruise, former Grand Duchess of SF. No cover. Shows at 10m & midnight. 133 Turk St. (at Taylor). Info: 441-2922; www.sfdrag.com

### Grupo Sociocultural Hispano

*Celebrando La Fiesta De Navidad*, a holiday potluck and party for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends. Meet at a private home. For details, call Andy at 522-1894 or Javier at 550-0388.

### SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a "Mt. Tam: The Heights and Views Hike," and enjoy the glorious vistas from ocean to Sierras. It's a moderate 8-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:15am under the big Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

### ATA Gallery

Other Cinema presents New Experimental Works, including a slew of recent film video and performance pieces. \$5, 8pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3890.

## Sun 17

### St. Ignatius Church

"A Chanticleer Christmas," featuring the Bay Area's Grammy Award-winning a cappella ensemble Chanticleer, the distinguished 12-man singing group under the music direction of Joseph Jennings. Featuring glorious choral works spanning seven centuries, including liturgical Gregorian Chant, Renaissance works by Thomas Stoltzer and Jacob Handl, 16th century English composer John Taverner's *Magnificat*, Francis Poulenc's ethereal *O magnum mysterium*, and Benjamin Britten's *A Hymn to the Virgin*, in addition to traditional English and American holiday carols. Special highlight: a set of three works by England's most respected living composer, Sir John Tavener. \$21-\$32, 8pm. Also on Dec. 23. 650 Parker St. Tix/info: 392-4400 or (800) 407-1400; www.chanticleer.org

### Aquatic Park Senior Center

New Leaf Outreach to Elders invites all lesbian, bisexual and transgender women of all ages to come celebrate

and dance in the winter holiday season at the "Women's Winter Holiday Tea Dance." Music provided by Lori Z. Co-sponsored by Lily Rains Trust Fund and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Free. 3-6pm. 890 Beach St. Info: 255-2937, ext. 308.

### First Unitarian Universalist Church

The G 40 Plus Club hosts its annual "We Made It through Another Year" party. Featuring entertainment by Tom Orr ("Dirty Little Showtunes," "Naked Boys Singing!"); Ms. Ada Pearl Daily; Berlin, Mr. Gay SF 2000; Chiblis, First Lady of Public Access TV ("Spectrum," Channel 29); Gail Wood, co-chair of the 1991 SF Pride Parade and Grand Duke Regent II; Tiger Lily, Grand Duchess XXIV; and Tom Basch, Mr. Gay SF 1999, Mr. GDI 2000, and President of the Board of the Tenderloin Ties Holiday Dinners. The MC will be Arthur Hurwith, Treasurer of G 40 Plus Club and of Rainbow Adult Community Housing. The G 40 Plus Club is the SF chapter of Prime Timers, an international organization for gay/bisexual men. Free. 2:30-4:30pm. Corner of Franklin & Geary. Info: 552-1997.

### Eagle Tavern

"Probing the Annals of History," a benefit for the GLBT Historical Society and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Inc. With beer, food, and a chance to meet a hot historian. Bring extra cash for raffle. \$8. 3-6pm. 398 12th St. Info: 777-5455; www.blbhistory.org

### 'N Touch Club

Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center celebrates the holiday with "It's Christmas! A holiday dance," emceed by Tita Aida, with Chi Chi La Woo, Ms. GAP! 2000, plus DJ Shawn and DJ Lambchop. Featuring a dance and a mini-show of famous personalities from the LGBT community of SF. \$3 cover donation (free admission to those who donate canned food for the benefit food-drive). Proceeds go to A&PIWC. Doors open 9pm-2am; show starts at 10:30pm. Info: www.ntouchsf.com

### The Plush Room

Mo' Good Stuff and eCabaret-SF present "Teddy Care 2000," benefiting Shanti and the Children of SF General Hospital, which receive 100% of the proceeds. Hosted by that southern soulful songstress Shane Kelly and featuring cabaret diva Mary Cleere Haran, the sweetly sexy Cory Jamison, provocative Mark Weigle, Sarah Hope & Matthew Liebowitz, Mychelle Coleary and Cami Thompson. Tickets are \$15 plus a brand new teddy bear, available from the Plush Room. 7pm. York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. Tix/info: 885-2800; www.mogoodstuff.com



Deborah Ben-Eliezer, Samantha Blanchard and Susan Donham dance in *Passion 2000* at Dance Mission. See Saturday.





Catch contortionists, acrobats, clowns and others at the New Pickle Circus performance at Cowell Theater. See Wednesday.

#### Tuva Space, Berkeley

ACME Observatory Contemporary Music Series presents "An Evening of Experimental Electronic Music," a sound exploration featuring Thomas Day's "Withinnerspaces," a distillation of his recent large-scale work for the dance company Capacitor, improvisations for saxophone and laptop by Boris Haufl, and abstract audio and video memories by Kit Clayton. \$8 suggested. 7-8pm. 3192 Adeline (at Martin Luther King St.), Berkeley. Info: (510) 444-3595.

#### New Valencia Hall

Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party host a community open house. Song, poetry, and conversation. Bring your favorite poem or radical song. Featuring local poets, community activists, artists and musicians. Hearty appetizer spread for \$6.50 donation. Noon-5pm. 1908 Mission St. (near 16th St. BART).

#### St. Gregory Nyssen Church

The SF Early Music Society presents the renowned early music ensemble Terra Nova Consort in "Renaissance en Provence," featuring carols and traditional music from Provence, in what is now southern France and northern Spain. Deeply rooted in a living oral tradition, this earthy music — secular and pastoral — reflects the land and way of life that gave it birth, performed using rustic instruments and a spirited, passionate vocal style akin to Gypsy music or the cante jondo of Andalucía. \$22 (\$19 members & seniors). 5:30pm.

#### ODC Theater

Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos perform Café Flamenco Fiesta Navidad, a holiday flamenco-dance show featuring

ing special guests Ernesto Hernandez and Stephanie Neira who will premiere a new piece titled *El Penitente*, a tribute to the late Bay Area flamenco instructor Jose Ramon. Also featuring Romerito and Candelita, child prodigies from LA, making their SF debut. Rounding out the program will be an audience sing-along of Spanish Christmas carols, or "villancicos." \$14 reserved tables; \$10 gen'l adm. 7pm. 3153 17th St. Tix/info: 863-9834; www.ticketweb.com; www.odc-dance.org/theater

## Mon 18

#### Piaf's

QComedy.com presents "Gay Comedy Showcase" hosted by Nick Leonard. Featuring special musical guest Helen Slayton-Hughes. With Gretchen Rootes, Darrick Richardson, Erin Souza, and more. Nick Leonard and Larry-bob have been presenting this weekly gay comedy showcase every week since January. They'll be taking two weeks off for Christmas and New Years. They'll be back with more of the City's funniest gay comedy on January 8. 5-8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). Info: 541-5610.

## Tue 19

#### The Stud

Santa puts a slut in your stocking as fab drag diva Kennedy hosts a special Trannyshack "Ho-Ho-Ho Christmas," honoring all hardworking sexworker elves who must work overtime during the holidays to satisfy their clients' special spiritual needs. \$5 cover.



Chanticleer sing a cappella carols and other holiday treats at St. Ignatius Church. See Sunday.

10m-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

## Wed 20

#### Gershwin Theater

The Instituto Italiano di Cultura presents Dario D'Ambrosi and his company of actors in the SF debut of "The Prince of Madness" (*Il principe della follia*), written and directed by D'Ambrosi. The cruel reality of loneliness and desperation underpins this story of a crippled man who sells human beings that live on the borders of society. D'Ambrosi's blend of commedia dell'arte and performance art was born out of his interest in the theater and a heartfelt understanding of mental disease, which he acquired through a period of self-imposed confinement in an asylum. D'Ambrosi, recognized as the father of Pathological Theater, performed often at New York's Café LaMaMa and in major cities throughout Europe and North America. Featuring actors Lorenzo Alessandro, Christina Colombo, and Pablo D'Agostino. \$18 (\$15 ICI members). 8pm. The Ira & Leonore S. Geršwin Theater, 2350 Turk Blvd. (at Masonic). Tix: 441-3687.

#### Cowell Theater

Gala premiere: The New Pickle Circus, recently re-united with the SF School of Circus Arts (SFSCA), presents "Tetrasomia," featuring an international cast of acrobats, aerialists, jugglers and contortionists from the Pickles, Cirque du Soleil, Cirque Ingenuex, Japan's Pop Circus, and the SFSCA. Directed by famed Chinese circus star and master trainer Lu Yi. The four elements — earth, air, fire and water — serve as themes for acts including teeterboard, straps, aerial fabric, hop diving, German wheel, Chinese poles, casting, and much more. \$10-\$22. 7:30pm. Also on Dec. 21-23 & 26-30. (2pm matinee shows Dec. 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31 & Jan. 1, 2001). Fort Mason Center (marina Blvd. at Bay St.). Tix: 392-4400 or BASS outlets; www.tickets.com

## Thu 21

#### Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

"Community-Wide Karaoke Chanukah Dinner Celebration," in which Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (CSZ) rekindles the Chanukah tradition with a modern, gay twist. Fry up those latkes. Strike that match. Hone your spinning strategy. Get ready to belt out those tunes. Chow down with family and friends, light Chanukah candles, spin the dreidel, and enjoy entertainment for all ages and tastes, from a charming puppet show with professional puppeteer Max, to a Karaoke contest hosted by Elvis the Pelvis, a fabulous lesbian in drag. For last-minute shopping, the CSZ gift show will be peddling traditional holiday necessities — chocolate gelt, dreidels, and Chanukah candles, as well as assorted Judaic gifts. Says new CSZ rabbi Camille Shira Angel: "It is so marvelous that in the midst of the darkest part of winter we have the Festival of Lights, Chanukah. The holiday joyfully celebrates a victory of identity and claiming a place in the world around us." Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a progressive Reform synagogue of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual Jews, together with lovers, family and friends, both Jewish and non-Jewish. \$8 adults; \$4 kids for CSZ members; \$10 & \$5 non-members; \$3 off with a tray of latkes. 6pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.). Info: 575-4961; www.shaarzahav.org

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# Heir to the famous cuteness genes

Christopher Landon rides off the Ponderosa with '\$30'

by Brandon Judell

When your father is Michael Landon and you're gay, 24, adorable and in the closet, life can be very nerve-racking. Why, any second a tabloid's front page can scream: "Little House on the Fairy!"

So to avoid such tastelessness, 5'10" Christopher Landon came out to *The Advocate* with a vengeance last year. Cover story. Cover photo. Suddenly the world knew everything there was to know about the son of the star of *Highway to Heaven*. At 7, he watched *Rosemary's Baby*. At 10, he read Stephen King. Today, he catches episodes of *Frasier* occasionally, weighs 135 pounds and is a Pisces. ("We're the doormat of the Zodiac. Everybody wipes their feet on us.")

It's hard to top journalism like that, but we'll try, especially since Landon has now written the screenplay for one of the shorts included in the gay conglomeration *Boys Life 3*, opening Friday at the Castro. This is the Strand Releasing series which takes a bunch of above-average gay shorts, snips them together, brings the reels to theaters, then goes home with the cash. (Barbara Streisand's lad, Jason Gould, is another contributor this time around, and you get to see his arse.)

Well, anyway, Christopher Landon is a superior screenwriter,

having proved himself with *Another Day in Paradise*, which starred Melanie Griffith in her best performance ever and was directed by Larry (Kids) Clark. Rent it today if you want to immerse yourself in a very sexy, very droll, in-your-face druggie film.

With the short '\$30', Landon lets loose on dealing with one's gayness. Here, a 16-year-old (Eric MacArthur) is being driven to a prostitute (Sara Gilbert) by his dad to lose his virginity. He can't even admit to himself he's gay. What a boy to do? Thankfully, this whore is even more together than Dr. Laura, so she instills a little gay pride into the kid, takes the cash, and sends him back home to become a Radical Fairy or something equally delightful.

"First of all, the story is not autobiographical," Landon notes from his LA home. So, sadly, Michael never took his boy to Heidi Floss in the family convertible to get his rocks off. A pleasant image to relish, but a false one.

## Strange balance

So, other than not supplying Christopher with hookers, was life with Dad all peaches and cream? Gould's short deals with the problems of being a celebrity's gay child. Does the angst of being a star's kid outweigh the joys?

"Do the problems outweigh the benefits? Hmmmm," Landon ponders. "In general, I don't think that's true. I think there's some kind of a strange balance somewhere in there."

His childhood, in fact, was only slightly more painful than coming out. (Daddy divorced Mommy in 1982.) "By and large, coming out's been a very positive experience. But as far as career goes, I've had a few borderline casting-couch experiences because of it," Landon laughs. "That's about it. It really hasn't done anything for my career. My work has to stand on its own two legs."

"But then I'm a screenwriter," he continues. "I think it only affects actors. I wouldn't advise any actor to come out. Unfortunately, I think sexuality plays a key role with them, their performances, and how they're perceived by their



Eric MacArthur in '\$30', a film written by Christopher Landon

audiences. If someone is a sex symbol with hordes of women lusting after them, if they suddenly come out and say, 'Well, actually I'm gay,' it's going to taint the audience's experience. The fantasy of someone like a Tom Cruise and a Brad Pitt and all those other actors is that the audience members think, 'Somehow I could actually

have that person.'"

Of course, a few of us would like to have Christopher Landon. "Just admire me from afar if you're going to at all," Landon laughs again. "I'm in a relationship again. Happily married."

Also, if you're a Landon fan, don't expect to see Christopher on the gay talking heads circuit, or

sitting on political function daises. "I was approached a few times. I've just been very honest about it. My coming out article was to preempt any other sort of nasty tabloid articles. And I felt comfortable and I was ready to do something like that. But I wasn't about to become an activist and a spokesperson for the movement. I just want to a certain degree to maintain my anonymity. To maintain my own private life."

So Chastity doesn't have to look over her shoulder, worrying Landon is going after any of her speaking engagements?

"Certainly won't. Not at all. She's safe," Landon assures.

So what's keeping this heir to the Landon cuteness genes busy nowadays?

"I just finished writing a project for HBO. I worked on it with Sharon Stone. Now I'm starting my own material. I wanted to take a little break and write a couple specs. Just have some fun basically."

Like watching *Queer as Folk*?

"I saw the British version," Landon notes. He enjoyed it, but he doesn't feel the American version or any gay cable series in fact will shake things up too much.

"Every step that's forward is a good step," he lectures, "but I don't know how much it's going to change anything. It's a relatively small program on Showtime, and the people tuning in to Showtime and watching a program like that are really in the major cities. I don't know how far it will reach. It's not that mainstream. I don't think it will have that great an effect."

In that case, we'll just have to wait for the next Christopher Landon screenplay.

"Oh, yeah," Landon laughs again. ▽

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## Boys Life 3

◀ Arts cover

ing because Dmitri forgot the condoms").

The Pope gets his comic comeuppance in a scene where he (played by an actor with his back to the camera) is forced to watch a condom commercial, and another where he's promenading through a crowd and is said to be worried about wrinkling his "dress."

Less ambitious but in some ways more tantalizing is Bradley Rust Gray's *Hitch*. This 18-minute exercise in slackerboy lust on the road focuses on a hunky gay van driver and his allegedly straight pickup. The film is a collage of Southwestern sunsets, mysterious bits of conversation about people we never see ("So does Sue like it up the ass?"), and lingering close-ups as the two come to terms with each other. The lack of context — these could be the only people left in a dead world — works in the film's favor as the viewer becomes actively engaged in trying to determine where this relationship is going, and indeed, what precisely is happening. An unfortunate silent-movie-style speeded-up scene, complete with fast banjo music, almost wrecks the mood, but not quite.

## Child's play

Undoubtedly the most awaited of the shorts is Jason Gould's *Inside Out*. Gould is of course the



Jason Gould and Alexis Arquette in *Inside Out*

spawn of Barbra Streisand and Elliott Gould, and predictably, this 27-minute opus contains much comic hand-wringing about the terrors of being the child of celebrities. Gould scores points for trouncing Scientology and self-help groups, casting Christina Crawford as herself in an effective bit ("My adoptive mother was the diva bitch from Hell"), and he might have been wise to keep the focus on this area. A prolonged subplot involving a fat, corn-dog-sucking paparazzi is painfully dumb, giving Gould an excuse to carry on, *a la* Barbra, in a woefully misjudged scene in a parking lot. Gould looks like his mama, and his mannerisms are reminiscent enough to make this must-

viewing, if probably disappointing, for all Barbraphiles.

Lane Janger's *Just One Time* is the short on which the recent feature-length movie was based. It's a turnabout-is-fair-play story with a twist. When Anthony begs his girlfriend to have sex with a lesbian so he can get off on it, she agrees on the condition that he consent to fucking the local queen, played by indie fixture Guillermo Diaz. Running just seven minutes, this version of *Just One Time* has a sketchy, one-joke feel. The feature, which is not without its problems, at least allows some of the ideas set up here to be explored in more depth.

Finally, there's Christopher  
next page ▸



## INTERVIEW

# Blonde ambition

Gossip maven Liz Smith on her sexuality and her memoir

by Bradley David

In her bestselling new memoir, *Natural Blonde* (Hyperion, \$25.95), the world's most famous gossip columnist reveals as much about herself as she does about the mega-celebrities, from Joan Crawford to Madonna, that she has covered in the course of her extraordinary life. Without getting analytical about her sexual orientation — or even giving it a label — Liz Smith writes matter-of-factly about her history of relationships with both men and women.

"A lot of people don't think I'm nearly matter-of-fact enough," Smith says with a laugh. "They wanted more."

Asked why she makes no mention in the book about being one of the early targets of writer Michelangelo Signorile when he became famous in the late '80s for outing celebrities in *Outweek* magazine, Smith doesn't demure.

"Why would I want to give him credit for something?" she says. "I think he's a jerk. I think he's an assassin, and I was very annoyed by him — that a person with two of the most beautiful names from the Renaissance could be such a creep! I'm not a revolutionary, and I wasn't going to throw myself on the barricades to suit

Michelangelo Signorile."

After Signorile repeatedly outed her in his bold-faced column, suggesting that Smith's own secret had resulted in her protecting the closeted celebrities she wrote about, she finally decided to go public.

"He'd write whole columns where he'd say, 'Fuck you, Liz!' over and over — he was just demented," she says of Signorile. "At first I didn't pay any attention to him, but then I did finally give an interview."

Ironically, her coming out interview appeared in the same publication that had been outing her. In a cover story called "The 'I Hate Outweek Interview,'" Smith discussed her sexuality with a freelance writer named Maer Roshan, who is now an editor at *New York* magazine.

"[Signorile] wanted me to be a role model for gay people, and I didn't think I could be a role model — I still don't," she says. "I mean, I'm delighted if I am in any way, and I certainly was always very sympathetic to gay causes and gay people and have a lot of gay friends. But I wasn't going to hold myself up as a leader. I was always too uncertain about what I wanted from life."

## Love letters

In *Natural Blonde*, Smith de-

scribes falling in love with another female student while attending the University of Texas in the mid-1940s. After her parents (then living in the Central Texas town of Gonzales) intercepted some love letters, her mother rushed to Austin, took her out of school before the spring semester had ended, and brought her home for a very awkward summer. Despite the times, Smith was never apologetic about the incident.

"I didn't see anything wrong that I had done," she says. "And I never did see anything [wrong] ever after. I went along in life and had numerous relationships with men, and then some with women. I just didn't distinguish between men and women. There's a story about Noel Coward where he and a friend were looking at this beautiful guy walking down the beach. The friend said, 'What do you think?' And Noel Coward said, 'I think he'd go either way for a box of chocolates.' I've always felt sort



Gossip columnist Liz Smith: either way for a box of chocolates

of like that."

Smith's romantic life has included two brief marriages, as well as a 15-year live-in relationship with a woman named Iris Love, who is a renowned archeologist. Still going strong at age 77, the New York-based Smith is syndicated to millions of readers in over 70 newspapers. A longtime AIDS activist, she serves on the board of AmFAR and has helped raise millions of dollars to fight the disease. "Beginning in 1983, I began to do a lot about AIDS in the column," she says. "I think that my column was the first popular forum that ever mentioned AIDS. I started writing about this unusual, strange disease that seemed

to be affecting gay men, and then I wrote more about it. I had a lot of people trying to get me to stop writing about it. I thought I did a lot more for gay people with that writing than I could've done by getting up and marching in the gay parade."

When pressed, Smith acknowledges that her openness has made a difference.

"Yes, I've gotten gobs of mail from people saying they were inspired, they were pleased, they're so appreciative of what I've done," she says modestly. "I've done a lot of stuff for gay causes, but not more than I do for other causes. My main cause is literacy."

Earlier this year, Smith caused quite a stir when she wrote in her column that a famous talk show host was on the verge of coming out.

"I decided never to do another blind item after that because I got in so much trouble with it, and the person I was referring to never came out," she says. "Oprah decided I was referring to her, and she called a press conference and said she wasn't gay and wasn't coming out. Then about six or seven other people nominated themselves that they weren't coming out. So it turned out to be quite funny. I was so sure that this was going to happen — I had a source that was really like best friends with the person."

Asked if we might eventually see her story adapted for the big screen, Smith laughs.

"Oh, that's what my agent tells me, but I'll believe that when I see it," she says. "I want Hillary Swank to play me, because she's absolutely beautiful, and yet she can look very young and innocent." ▼

## Boys Life 3

◀ previous page

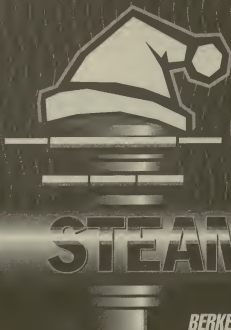
Landon's \$30, directed by Gregory Cooke. The title refers to the sum a father pays a prostitute, Emily (Sara Gilbert, of *Roseanne* fame), to introduce his son to sex. Unfortunately, the son is queer, a fact instantly divined by the simpatico whore. Clocking in at a bit over 19 minutes, \$30 benefits from pro performances from all concerned, especially Gilbert, who gives a sen-

sitive, nuanced portrayal. Screenwriter Landon, like Jason Gould, has a show biz pedigree; he's the son of Michael Landon. Unlike Gould, he doesn't milk this fact to generate sympathy. Typical of the subtle pleasures of this film, he refers to his legacy obliquely, via a television playing a *Little House on the Prairie* episode in the background. ▼

*Boys Life 3* opens Friday, December 15, at the Castro.

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## Update on SoMa Bare Chest Calendars

# Castro to share in SoMa glory

by Mister Marcus

The board of directors of SMMILE and the calendar committee last week announced the dates of the *SoMa Bare Chest Calendar* contests that will take place next year for the 2002 edition. The format will basically remain the same, but at least three of the contests will take place at Harvey's Bar on Castro Street. The remaining nine competitions, plus the coverman contest, will all occur again at the Powerhouse Bar, sticking to the traditional South of Market locale.

Already some critics are decrying the decision to hold any part of the 15 year old institution in the Castro, but the SMMILE committee feels that interest in the calendar (and in sales, of course) will be enhanced if some of the contests are held in the Castro neighborhood.

Judges for the 12 competitions are being lined up already and the dates (all on Thursdays) are as follows: Mr. January on Jan. 11; Mr. February on Jan. 25; Mr. March on Feb. 1 at Harvey's; Mr. April on Feb. 8; Mr. May on Feb. 22; Mr. June on March 1st at Harvey's; Mr. July on March 8; Mr. August on March 22; Mr. September on March 29; Mr. October on April 5; Mr. November on April 19; and Mr. December on May 3. After all 12 winners are selected, they will all compete for the cover spot. The 1st runner-up will grace the back cover of the 2002 SOMA Bare Chest Calendar.

All contests will begin at 2100 hours, and there will be three at-large judges, plus one representative of the SMMILE Board. Winners will receive a \$100 prize, a spot on the calendar, and a year they will never forget. The AIDS Emergency Fund and Positive Resources will be the beneficiaries, and Miller Brewing and Golden Brands Distributors are the corporate sponsors. The current calendar sales are going full blast, and it looks like sales for the 2001 calendar will be another record. If you feel like you want a chance at stardom with a painless volunteer effort, this is the way to go!

### Fallen soldier

I am extremely sad to report the passing of Scott Rodriguez, the co-owner of The Cuff Complex in



Six of the 2001 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar men posed for a holiday shot as they autographed calendars recently at the Bolt Bar in Sacramento.

Seattle, during Thanksgiving week. He received so many accolades during his visit to this Earth, it would take more space than I am allowed to list them all, but he was twice a winner of the Pantheon of Leather award, a judge at IML, International Mr. Drummer, and the American Brotherhood Weekend; and a member of the Seattle Men in Leather for almost a decade. He, along with the Mr. Washington State Leather committee, staged that contest each year with nationally known leather personalities as judges, top-notch entertainment, and an event that climaxes Seattle's Leather Pride Week each year.

Scott was also a member of the Imperial Court in Seattle as Imperial Prince of Seattle XXI, and played on various Seattle gay softball teams which more than once made it to top rankings in the national NAGAA softball tournaments. He chaired the event when it came to Seattle.

A fun person and a fun lover, Scott and his business partner (and former lover), Tim Frunulovich, teamed up to bring pride in their community, in leather, in the imperial court system, and in business. The once beer-only Cuff Bar is now host to thousands of locals and visitors alike, with a leather bar, cruise bar, dance bar, and a top-notch restaurant. If you ever became a friend of Scott Rodriguez, you had a friend for life.

The annual Emerald Awards held in Seattle, which always included personalities outside his state, evidenced Scott's love for all

peoples in the worldwide LGBT communities. The Emerald Awards are Seattle's highest accolades for activists, both in and out of leather. Scott Rodriguez was a legend in his own time, yet he was blissfully unaware of the respect and love he commanded throughout the known leather world. I grieve with all his families.

### Done deals

Donna Sachet packed the house at the Plush Room last week for her annual "Songs of the Season" Christmas show. The performance raised almost \$12,000 for this year's edition, exceeding last year's edition by almost \$5,000. Thanks were due to all of the rest of the cast and all the volunteers.

Also last Saturday night, a big crowd appeared at Club Townsend for the LIFEbeat benefit, only one of Audrey Joseph's many projects, this time a music-industry bash in support of AIDS agencies. Supervisor Mark Leno presented a proclamation from Da Mayor, and the food and silent auction items were out of this world.

Later that same evening, a huge leather presence made itself felt at Casa Sanchez on Guerrero, where Omar Moseley and Don Ho's annual Leather Christmas Party took place. The food was great, the company very eye-popping, and more money for charity was raised.

Earlier on Saturday, the Alameda Co. Leather Corps staged their annual Santa's Slave Auction at Rumors in Hayward. A big turnout resulted, and lots of "services" were auctioned off.

next page ►

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Friday, December 15

SF Exiles' 4th annual Video Night at the Women's Bldg., for "raunchy, dirty, erotic, sexy" videos featuring piercing, knives, and rope. Fees for members & non-members. For info, call 835-4739 or click on [www.theexiles.org](http://www.theexiles.org).

### Saturday, December 16

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at Lone Star, 1500-1900. Only \$7 to benefit the SF Fire Dept. Toy Program. Photos with Santa may be had for \$5. Enjoy complimentary "food spread" as thanks for your support all year.

### Sunday, December 17

Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and GLBT Historical Society host a beer/soda bust at the Eagle,

1500-1800, for \$8, including food, historical entertainment, and hot historians!

### Wednesday, December 20

Wear your frillies and rags to the Underwear Buddies gathering at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2100-2300. Call 863-HEAD.

### Friday, December 22

"Lights Out" party at the Russian River Eagle. Be trashy out of town! From 2100 to closing. Be sure Terry Gauchat doesn't spot you with his flashlight!

### Wednesday, December 27

Final Leather Buddies night of the year at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: Boots only, leather, latex, uniforms. No red Santa Hats and no cologne! Butch it up! Call 863-HEAD for details.



# Poole in the sand

by John F. Karr

Heaven of two very different sorts is offered up in Wakefield Poole's autobiography, *Dirty Poole* (Alyson Press, \$13.95). The first half of the book is a theatrical memoir of a man who played an integral role in the creation of a number of Broadway hits. As performer, associate choreographer, and choreographer, Poole worked with Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Laurents, Michael Bennett, Richard Rodgers, Joe Layton, John Dexter and other greats on a string of Broadway shows. Then this career was usurped when, thinking he could make a better porno than the ones he was seeing, he made *Boys in the Sand*. The second half of Poole's book details his career in the sexual arts, as a pioneering and always artistic filmmaker of a string of still memorable porn flicks.

Poole looks at both halves of his career with equally surprising, yet unflinching candor. Not for Poole the self-serving candor of Arthur Laurents' recent autobiography, in which Laurents came out the better for each dishing revelation about his peers. Poole's assessments are those of someone who can realistically examine his failings along with his successes and skills. And he can see when the problem was his own, including, most particularly, a nasty descent into drug usage — remember, this was the '70s and early '80s, when the glamour drug coke, reputed to be non-addictive, hooked many before AIDS applied its brakes.

Poole has fascinating revelations about the making of his films, the effect they had on gay pop culture, and the workings of



Wakefield Poole posing with his set of Andy Warhol's *Marilyns* in 1971 for *Interview* magazine, shortly after the release of *Boys in the Sand*

the porn industry he inadvertently helped create. And there's a threnody here, for the many men who died.

Poole speaks with moving insight about the veil that existed over homosexuality among Broadway professionals, even backstage on Broadway during the '60s, and reveals the full horror of the backstage sex and ego wars that are the legendary gossip concerning *Do I Hear a Waltz*.

Turning to his films, his reactions and emotions when filming sex are illuminating. He gave much thought to the sexuality he was representing, aware of the effect his films could have on the creation of gay sexual identity. He offers valued insights, won with earnest reflection, and they're the sort of personal, in-depth reaction you won't find in the glossy memoirs of other porn directors. Of

peculiar interest is a section on SM — during the filming of a fist-fingering sequence, Poole realizes how these "usually sordid" experiences can convey love. And his own bisexuality allows him to offer some particularly cunning advice to Liza Minnelli as she contemplates marrying Peter Allen.

The book has only a handful of photographs, and of course, more would be nice. And the text misspells the names of several famous people and places. Finally, though, *Dirty Poole* is yet another lovely gift from an unusually talented and generous man who gave of himself in so many ways. Poole's was a tumultuous and creative life, and whether dishing up Broadway backstage or the porn world demimonde, his book is stuffed with fascinating tales. A great big thanks to Wakefield for this book. I read it twice. ▼

## Mister Marcus

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### Upcoming at the River

Be reminded that the new Mr. North Coast Leather T. Jay Cain up in Guerneville, is staging this mammoth "Taste of the River" benefit on Thursday, Dec. 28th at Club Fab. It will feature Momi

Starr, Shann Carr and the SF Gay Men's Chorus and contrary to what was reported in another RAG, it is NOT, repeat, NOT being sponsored by Coors Beer.

It's a benefit for Sonoma County's AIDS Emergency Fund and the \$100 tickets feature a five-course dinner prepared and donated by at least five river restaurants, with wine donated by De

Loach, Clos Du Bois and Korbel. The action begins at 1800 hours, and tickets are on sale now at the Russian River Eagle, the Triple R, and online at [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). Tickets cost \$10 for the concert only, and may be purchased in advance or at the door.

Yes, the "season" is upon us, so don't overdo it! After all, New Year's Eve is just around the corner. ▼

## Sweet Lips' affair to remember



Sweet Lips at her all-red 78th Birthday Party at the Club Rendez-Vous on Saturday, December 2, with Club manager/owner David Kapp. Lips says special thanks to Empress Marlene and Empress Pat Montclair for whipping her into shape (well, sorta) for her faboo party. ▼

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# BAR TALK



photo by Steven Underhill

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## PARTING GLANCES

**ISO Michael 10/27 Metro**  
Your table was next to ours, me in blue short sleeve. As you left, you stopped and was introduced to our table with 8 people. ☎ 72593

**Cute Curly Haired Dark Preppie Boy Of Wh/Indian/Med/Latin looks?**  
Sometimes preppie BM. We tend to see each other a lot in the Castro, B of A, me at bus stop, couple of times De-tour. Why don't we just say hello for starters? ☎ 72594

**Day B4 Tgiving Bart 1pm**  
You: tall, red shirt w/2 women. Me: shorter w/ lt. brown hair, glasses. You got off at 16th/ Mission & said "so long". Wanna meet? ☎ 72653

**Jack London Square Sunday 11/5**  
Barnes & Noble coffee shop @ 2:00pm. You cute, red hair w/calculus book. Me: worried about backwards time travel. I felt a connection, did you? Please call. ☎ 72595

**Rick @ Lonestar Sat 11-4-00 PM**  
Shy @ the bar? How about dinner? Or a drink? No prize tickets needed! ☎ 72596

**Mint Bar "Blue Shirted Flasher"**  
You flashed me at door, on Halloween. Me blonde, bearded vampire in white & silver. My photo didn't come out, can I get a 2nd shot? ☎ 72597

**18th & Castro Shirtless Dancer Oct 31**  
You were on bus stop booth with no shirt, dancing. It was Castro Halloween. I screamed at you. I wore a devil shirt. Interested? ☎ 72680

**Walking Down 18th Sun 10/29**  
We walked past each other, me: gray shirt, jeans. You: baseball cap, blue sweatshirt, backpack. We looked back a couple of times. Hope our paths cross again. ☎ 72598

**Handsome Asian Civic Cent 10/27**  
Like finding a needle in a haystack. Asian gent Civic Center 10/27 approx 8pm with an incredible walk. Interested in meeting? ☎ 72600

**David Designer From Oakland**  
Martunis Monday 11/6. I was going to dinner with my boyfriend, you with your brother. I am now single. Wish we had talked more. Call me. ☎ 72613

**Dore Castro St. Tues 11/14 9pm**  
We chatted- would like to continue conversation and catch up. Please call, Bill. ☎ 72635

**"Got Candy?"**  
You: Black guy riding 38 Geary 11-2 5:30pm. We both got off at Presidio. Looked for you and lost you. Me: blue backpack. Call me! ☎ 72614

**Thai House On Market Fri 11/10**  
Your smile made for difficult dining, maybe next time we can be seated at the same table? ☎ 72615

**Glances At The Rhino 10/15**  
You: tall Asian w/ khaki cap; me white in purple shirt. Exchanged glances across the audiences, waves after the show, matinee on 10/15. ☎ 72616

**Gdiking Guy Driving Black Jetta**  
Wednesday 11/8 at 4:45pm north bound on 19th Ave. Short beard beautiful smile. Me, flat top, driving silver Daihatsu, racing thru traffic. Call me! ☎ 72617

**Handsome Grayhair Man At Zuni**  
11/9, 6pm, across from each other in bar. You met friends for dinner. I met friends for drinks. We exchanged glances, and smiled when you left after dinner. I think you're sexy. Dinner at Zuni sometime? ☎ 72618

**Lyle And Evan Burritos On 24th St**  
Hey buddy- enjoyed our time, let's get together. ☎ 72623

**VA Hospital Cowboy**  
I saw you in lobby we nodded to each other. I'd really like to talk interested? Call. ☎ 72634

**Trader Joe's Friday 11/10**  
We smiled at check-out, you turned as you made your exit. Me: WM, tall, black jacket, goatee; you: BM, glasses, short hair. Wanna meet for coffee? ☎ 72650

**"Fuzzylogic" Opening 11/17**  
You were upstairs. Me down. We smiled. No time then to talk. Have time now. Call me. ☎ 72651

**19 Polk 12:30 Tues At 11/21**  
Blond, 30s, newspaper. You: 30s, also in leather jacket, v. handsome, sat w/me. Asked time, you thought I was leaving; U smiled, said "take care" when I did, @ Market. Mutual frisson? ☎ 72652

**Sun 11/26 Jubilee Cafe**  
You in yellow shirt, if not engaged, would like to meet! ☎ 72654

**Blow Buddies Sun Nov 19**  
You: No clothes, shaved head, goatee, working over stud on chair. Me: bushy moustache, Levis, green, blue coca-cola sweatshirt. Let's meet? ☎ 72655

**The Rhino, 10/15 Matinee**  
You: Tall Asian in khaki cap, sat with friends. Me: White in purple shirt, sitting alone. Exchanged glances in the theatre, waved afterwards walking away. ☎ 72656

**Eric In The Edge On Halloween**  
Uncle Sam wants you. ☎ 72599

**A. H. Fitzgerald**  
We shared one afternoon of unbridled passion in S.F. Circumstances stopped me from contacting you afterward. Hoping rekindle the flame. C. ☎ 72657

**Home Depot Sun 11/26 8:30am**  
You: tall, dark, thin, white sweatpants. Me: short, dark, moustache, jeans. Too struck by your good looks to speak. Call if ok with HIV+ men. ☎ 72658

**Met At Powerhouse!**  
You, blond, 23, Musician, DJ, Dot-com me, 53, Provincetown, Howard Johnson's. Let's create magic. ☎ 72681

## SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

**HIV+ Black Male Or Latino**  
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue 5'10", 150lbs versatile bottom. 44yrs gen-

uinely honest and loving, you be the same, I live in Paradise near Chico, am willing to travel, please call me. S 72601

**Seeking Asian Boyfriend**  
Muscular GWM, 43, in very good shape is wishing to date a smooth, in-shape Asian. 25-50. No games or B.S. Please only serious minded long term. ☎ 72602

**East Bay Latino ISO Black Male**  
Attractive, 35, 5'9", 160, HIV-, smooth olive skin, youthful face, healthy lifestyle. ISO Black male, masculine, in good shape, top, under 45 for dating or possible relationship. ☎ 72603

**Lonely? Looking For A Friend?**  
Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165#, in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 72619

**Asian Guys In Stockings**  
Lingerie and heels turn me on! Butch WM, 40, 6ft 2 in, 200lb, seeks HIV neg dream girl with wardrobe for dating, safe fun. Be sweet, sincere. ☎ 72620

**Classy Hndsm GWM 36 Seeks TLR**  
Me- attractive masc/muscular 6'1", 180, 44"chst, 32"wt, HIV-neg Bartender/student, tired of bar scene, loves music U-drk hair, drk eyes, warm heart, attractive, witty. ☎ 72621

**Please...**  
Fuck me hard, then deep your beautiful cock into my hot throat for romance with White top 30-50. Scorpio, Cancer, Aries preferred. Thank you. ☎ 72636

**Shy Cute German 34yo Top Artist**  
Blond, blue hairy, 6'1", 160 uncut. ISO crazy-like Asian, Black, Latino, or other for unlimited fun! Horny? Don't wait call me now. ☎ 72637

**Bi-Monthly Visitor**  
Slim masculine WM 43 would like to meet the same or younger for talks, walks, films, meals, and naked intimacy, on weekends. ☎ 72638

**"I Need Your Vote(s)!"**  
To win Bay Area best cocksucker crown (I'm ex-captain U.S. Olympic cocksucking team) Knock-sox-off demos for your buddies: let's get it them, out/ up/ off! ☎ 72639

**Heart & Soul Hunk. Amen!**  
Bubbly quick-witted unpretentious, 37, 6'1", 175# br/gr clean shaven, Dutch background, HIV-, Publishing Entrepreneur, own flat, hike, swim, cook, massage, cocktail, cuddle, versatile. Artistic sensibility. Well-endowed in more ways than one. ☎ 72659

**How About Some Bump & Grind?**  
GBM top 50 needs GWM bottom 50ish for hot sex and hanging out at my place, must be beefy and enjoy taking it. Smoke and aroma A+. ☎ 72660

**Intelligent BDSM In Oakland**  
Seeking fit submissive, little experience ok. mild start, gradual progression per mutual interests. Substance more than image. Sex unlikely, no drugs. Fit solid WM 54, 5'8" bald, beard. ☎ 72661

**Seeking Big Ones**  
Handsome GWM- blk/hazel: great body. Sweet ass. Seeks GWM with a big fat one to plow me, deep & slow. No disappointments. ☎ 72662

**Nellie Top ISO LTR**  
Single GWM 50's HIV- top fra/p 6' 200# smoker non gym big hearted, grounded looking for single gay male w/good nature and cut tool for BJ, ass plowing, romance. ☎ 72663

**GWM, 25, 6'2", Slim, Attractive**  
W/ quick, cynical mind, wildly varied interests, seeks similar: HIV-, don't need to respond to ads, mature. No Castro clones, good personality, be interesting. 23-27. ☎ 72664

**Not Looking For A 10**  
Not even a 7. What I am looking for is an average guy 30 & 40? Oriental? White? This 48yr, W/M in S.J. would like to meet you. Let's do some dating and if it works out, start a long term relationship. You must be willing to relocate. ☎ 72682

**HIV+ Black Male Or Latino**  
Wanted by HIV+ blond/blue 5'10", 150lbs versatile bottom. 44yrs genuinely honest and loving, you be the same, I live in Paradise near Chico, am willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 72683

**Seeking Other Hardbodies**  
5-9 145 38c 29" w wash brd. abs smooth, tan, handsome, 47yo, seeks same for ltr. Sex, & wrk out. ☎ 72684

**European GWM**  
29, 5'10", 165 seeking committed, honest, sensitive, intellectual GWM/ 27-35 for monogamous ltr. No gym, dotcom, feminine types. Serious only! ☎ 72685

**Bruiser Bottom Wanted**  
Older but hung topman wants a husky bottom guy flat on his back, legs in the air, ready for a raw pounding. Moustache/ but no other facial hair/a turn-on. ☎ 72686

**Monogamous Muscular Man**  
Seeks GM for dating in S.F. I'm Asian, young 50, 5'7", 150#, HIV-neg., into working out, body worship/tit play. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 72687

**Looking For Real Nice Fun Mate**  
Handsome, youngish, HIV- 35 GWM/ half Colombian. Fun, cuddly, spontaneous sagitarian. Slim, drk brn. You: late 20's-30's, handsome, light eyes, Northern Europeanish, tall, lanky, gentlemanly, monogamous. No heavy drugs. ☎ 72688

**Seeking Asian Boyfriend**  
Muscular GWM 43, sensitive, in very good shape is wishing to date a smooth, in-shape Asian 25-50. No games or B.S. Please only serious minded, long term. ☎ 72689

**Top Fuckbuddy Wanted**  
GWM, HIV+, 36yrs, bottom, seeks HIV+. Hot top for erotic hot safe sex. Me, br, hzi, 6'1", love br, br, 50's but not required. ☎ 72690

## SEEKING ADVENTURE

**Take Off Ur Shirt & Breath Deep**  
Muscle guys 25-35 wanted for phys/exam. His/Asian/ drk hair A+. Stress test & rectal exam. Must have nice musc. chest to listen to. Masc, blk, top DR, WM 40, 6', 180. ☎ 72604

**WM Needs Asian To Fuck My Face**  
Bi-curious WM seeks Asian to fulfill my fantasy- of your fast fucking my virgin throat concluding with my sucking your balls while you lo your load on my face. ☎ 72605

**Hot Box For Hot Shots**  
Attractive 40-something Latino bottom guy wants to hook up with hung top guys for regular sex encounters. Let be buddies. ☎ 72607

**Swimmer Seeks Surfer To Dive**  
For pearls, dive on oxygens, prty tight claims. Spandex swimsuit vs. rubber wetsuit. Mussels & big kanuna A+. No sponges or shipwrecks. ☎ 72608

**Masculine Manpussy & Hung Tots**  
White male, 35s, loves to party, seeks domination by 1 to 4 thick hung tops. Me, oral, versatile, in-shape, nice cock. Possible bondage/ dildo/FF. I love come. East Bay A+. ☎ 72622

**Poz GBM 5ks GWM Top**  
38, 165lb, 6'4, smooth, masculine but submissive behind closed doors. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 72623

**"I Am One Of A Kind!"**  
My throat is like butter- deep throat-bottom, 37, tats, shaved head(-) 185lbs seeks masculine man to service(-). ☎ 72624

**"Spank Me!" Cute Little Fratboy**  
24 needs over the knee action from dominant big brother or daddy. Gym body in the Castro. Bottom boy. ☎ 72625

**ISO Poz Marin/Sonoma FuckBuddy**  
For fun or poss. ltr. 51yo GWM, 5'10", 160lbs, s/p buzz, moustache, uncut ISO earthy guy who enjoys vers. oral sex and fucking a hot bottom. ☎ 72626

**Handsome Hung Italian**  
Super endowed 10" seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for oral sex. ☎ 72644

**Asian Top**  
Sought by healthy, muscular, athletic, attractive poz GWM. 6', 165lb. 47yo. Safe only. Fun for sure. ☎ 72640

**"Got Cheese!"**  
GWM 50, 6' loves man smells any age race. 7" or more. Long over hang a real plus. ☎ 72667

# BAR TALK

## PERSONALS ARE FREE!

### CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐  
Seeking Relationship ☐  
Seeking Adventure ☐  
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Fetishes ☐  
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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Headline, 30 characters maximum \_\_\_\_\_  
Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103**



**"Top, Wants To Be Topped!"**  
Blue collar masc WM 45 looks about 41, smooth, broad shoulders, must/ Van Dyke side burns/ seeks very hairy slender to med/ build under 5'6" to take control. HIV- 72641

**Bottom Hot Latino 30's Likes To Suck** a big dick, also get fucked. Redwood City area. Nice ass, nice legs. Please call me. 72642

**Hot White Bottoms Need By** White top, 6'0", 56yrs old, drk brn hair, eyes glasses 9" dick, 160lbs. Want to fuck hot young White men under 40. Leave message. 72643

**Hot Cock And Ass 4 U**  
White versatile, E/B, slender, 5'8", 155, 50's HIV-, seeks tops with 6"+ and slender, hairless bottom, HIV-, safe sex, no drugs, any age, race or marital status. Asians A+. 72645

**SR GWM ISO Mature GBM**  
For massage J/O, I'm 5'9" 155# af-fectionate average cut, bearded. You're 45+ fit/healthy. Medium to beefy. Shaved head, facial hair A+. 72665

**Bodybuilder Phone J/O**  
Bodybuilder into bodyworship, muscle, flexing. Posing, weightlifting, wrestling, in jock or posing trunks, nude. Call with your fantasy. 5'9", 195, 46ch, 16a. 72666

**Beer Porno And BJ For Seniors.**  
Strip naked, kick back and enjoy a drink and porno while masculine WM sucks your cock in return for your finishing by jacking off your hot load on my face. 72606

**Total Anal Bottom Bear**  
Caucasian, 49, stocky, 5'10", 195#, talented asshole for your fucking pleasure! Shaved head, hairy, beard on my belly-waiting for you to cum, on top of me! 72627

**Dominant Older Man Will Train**  
A gdlk's submissive 18-40 boy to serve him as a son or/ and slave. Lims respected. On-going preferred. Daddy-master is mid 70's, attr; young looking and acting. 72668

**Hunky Underwear Fanatic Sks Same**  
Hairy, built GWM seeks similar SF hunk for mutual underwear fetishes, nip/ball work, long 69 sessions. I'm 5'11", 180, 50, totally oral, healthy poz. You're hairy chested, tall in-shape, 40+, totally oral too. Prefer average size dick. Let's get it on while wearing, trading, sniffing, talking about our boxers, briefs, jockstraps. Repeat desired if chemistry, attraction, compatibility. 72669

**I Love My Dad/ 5'9" 200lbs 42**  
GWM seeks very hairy daddy-types 40-60 for romance and fun. Very oral, affectionate & cute. Must have fun & outgoing personality. 72670

**Looking To Service Older Guys**  
Healthy HIV+ GWM, 40, brbl, 165lbs, 5'8" in Oakland, wants to service guys 46-60. Muscular, hairy, hung, well-built A+. 72671

**Kinda Shy Guy**  
HIV+ Black male, 42, medium build, enjoy movies, dancing, walks at night, daytime-always! Looking for 38-up, HIV+ males looking for someone like me. All types welcome. 72672

**Free Massage**  
From bottom daddy, GWM, 42, 6', 165lbs. Ital/Germ, brown/hazel, beard given to lean top boy 18-35. Dark hair and/or facial hair a plus. 72691

**East Bay Mature Academic**  
Appreciative of nude male body seeks gay, straight, bi exhibitionist or curious, 25-50, for private encounters his peaceful private home. 72692

**Heavyset Men**  
WLM 45, 160lbs, moderately hry. I'm attracted to husky/heavset men who enjoy lots of hugging, kissing & oral action. Facial hair A+. Not into gay lifestyle. 72693

**GAM 30's Back In Town**  
Looking for GWM 30-43 for hot times. If interested please call. 72694

## FETISHES

**Erotic S/M Bondage CBT TT Etc.**  
Cute couple, Asian/White in 30's, gym toned bodies, want to meet couples or single who interested in getting together to play. Call to discuss... 72609

**Knocked Around And Bruised**  
And humiliated and degraded. That's what this slim healthy 58-years old needs from in-charge guy. You come and I take it and don't come. 72610

**F.F My Little Ass**  
Bi WM needs be F.F slow live in Woodland. I'm HIV- very clean and great cocksucker. Like S/M, toys, video's, aroma/ herbs, age/race open. Drive up or take a train! Serious only. 72628

**S&M Top, Bear, 50, Trains Boys!**  
You: 20's in-shape, any race. Pluses: shorts, swimmers, gymnast, Asian novice. Bondage, TT, CBT, hotwax, spankings, shaving. Limits respected and expanded. Take it like a man! 72629

**Smooth Submissive Wanted**  
SWM, 38, blonde, smooth, sym-toned in Pacific Heights, seeks submissive, smooth, boyish boyfriend, 18-28, for pussyboy sex slave, verbal abuse and humiliation. No ballroom dancing. 72646

## Servant...

Polite, courteous man is dutiful and eager to please a masterful man with out question or exception. 72630

## "Spread That Ass!"

GWM 38y/o, 158#, 5'10", uncut, low hanging balls, red hair, ISO butt to eat and piss to drink. Kinky man seeking others. 72631

## Daytime-Asshole Eater!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! 72647

## Your Hair Is Blond, Your Eyes

Are blue, your ass is smooth, I'll kiss it for you. Wear boots and jeans, I'll lick them clean. 72648

**Diaper Boy ISO Daddy LTR**  
I am 38yo Irish, 5'11" 190 brown hair, hzl eyes seeking a daddy. You be over 45 heavy or stocky, like diaper boys, spanking fun. 72673

## Big & Smelly Feet Wanted

By 27yo Latino foot bottom. I'll suck and worship your feet while you jerk-off. I love dick too. Please be masculine with big feet. 72674

## Holiday Pounds Adding Up?

Chubby? Stocky? Got a belly? Trim encourager seeks guy who wants to grow a gut. Let me feed you. Forget fit, I like you fat. 72675

## Seeking Serious Workout Buddy

I'm a 46yr, old stocky 190# serious nipple-pig with huge erect nipples. Brn/brn, salt & pepper goatee, tats & piercing, smoker ISO safer masc, muscular dominant nip pig "daddy" for serious wk outs. with growth in mind. Please call. Smoker +-+. 72676

## Body Shaving

Part or complete your limits respected free no money exchanged either way. Just enjoyment. Concord area leave message. 72677

## Paddle Poker

Boots, jockstraps, frat paddles. High hand gives, low hand gets. Group forming. All men into paddling welcome. 72678

## Sexy Big And Black

If you are Black, horny, big chested and ready for some hot fun, I'm ready for you. I'm hot, handsome and hungry for a big Black man. 72695

## Daytime Asshole Eater!!

Get your asshole eaten by a pro!!! 72696

## Knocked Around And Bruised

And humiliated and degraded. That's what this slim healthy 58-years old needs from in-charge guy. You come and I take it and don't come. 72697

## Latex Love

Play safe! Wear a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. 72698

## COUPLES

### Dreo Sandwich???

Gdlk, prof'l GBM in city, 38, skg friendship & fun w/ hot White couple. Me: 5'9", 175, 42c, 31w, cleancut/ shower, workout, HIV-, intelligent. Be fun and hot!! 72611

### 2 Intense For One

Masc WM 6'3" 215 smooth 45 blue collar, must/ Van Dyke side burns, seeks two tops to get n between. Prefer hairy. Want to be taken down, HIV-. 72649

## "3,4,5, Whatever...!"

Looking to hook up in a comfortable atmosphere with a group of extremely hot muscular men. Me: Handsome GBM, 33y/o, 5'11", 185, stache, clean-cut, smooth, shvd head. "Built To Perfection!" Let's Hook. 72612

## OTHER

**Walking/Hiking**  
Recent non-smoker, 44, seeks companion on rural hikes and urban walks. 72679

## "San Fran Hottest Studs!"

GBM 33, 180#, solid, smooth, stache, masc, musc & GWM 35, tan, 190#, shaved head, body builder, build, looking for some sexual hot male to male action. The more the merrier. Call. "Won't be disappointed!" 72632

## Take Turns. Mature Competitions.

Two men, naked in close proximity, spank & slap hard & firm each other's buttocks. Other eroticisms encouraged. TT & CB etc.. 72698

Play safe. Wear a condom. 72698



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# Something to prove

by Gregg Shapiro

Three or more albums into their careers, bands such as Collective Soul, Squirrel Nut Zippers, and The Wallflowers know that they can't rest on their laurels, especially since each of their previous discs were commercial or critical successes. With the pressure on, full blast, these bands can only top their own popularity.

Once they found a sound that worked for them, as they did on 1995's self-titled disc, Collective Soul has continued to hone it on three subsequent albums, including *Blender* (Atlantic), their latest. Crunchy guitars, percussive beats bordering on dance music, and programming separate Collective Soul's brand of Southern college rock. It takes a while to get to the album's most interesting tracks. "Perfect Day" features Elton John on vocals and piano, and is a pleasant pop song with a catchy chorus and Antonio L.A. Reid supplying "hand claps." Even better is "After All," which features restrained vocals by Ed Roland, and a beat that encourages toe-tapping.

Squirrel Nut Zippers were a much-needed breath of fresh air during the swing music revival that began a couple of years ago. The departure of vocalist Tom Maxwell following the band's huge hit single "Hell" must have been quite a blow, but they're back

and still swinging on their newest album *Bedlam Ballroom* (Mammoth). Vocalist Katharine Whalen sounds good and sassy on tracks such as "Baby Wants a Diamond Ring," "Bent out of Shape," and "Hush." A majority of the remaining tracks are instrumentals that should please the Lindy-hopper in you.

As if his father's legacy weren't enough, Jakob Dylan (and his band The Wallflowers) had to create music to follow up their Grammy-nominated best-selling *Bringing Down the Horse* album.

## Crunchy guitars, percussive beats, and programming separate a few bands from the pack.

*Breach* (Interscope) does a pretty good job of both continuing the legend and expanding on it. For example, the album's first single "Sleepwalker" is every bit as infectious as "One Headlight." "I've Been Delivered" sounds like a new direction for the band, and the beautiful "Witness" is an unexpected pleasure. The Wallflowers' Springsteen jones (which we got a taste of on "6th Avenue Heartache") surfaces again on "Up from Under," while "Murder 101" is a clever two-and-a-half-minute pop song.

Rage Against the Machine probably has the least to prove of any of the bands in this column. In fact, even after the departure of lead vocalist Zack de la Rocha, the band could still achieve considerable chart success with their new album *Renegades* (Epic). A tribute to musical renegades in the rock and hip hop genres, this album may prove to be the band's most accessible. Hip hop tracks such as "Microphone Fiend" (Eric B & Rakim), "Renegades of Funk" (Afrika Bambaata), "I'm Housin'" (EPMD), and "How I Could Just

Kill a Man" (Cypress Hill) get the RATM treatment without losing much in the transition. Even slamming tunes such as MC5's "Kick out the Jams," Minor Threat's "In My Eyes," and The Stooges' "Down on the Street" sound as if they've been waiting for RATM to interpret them. It is Devo's "Beautiful World" that is the most revealing track. Performed in a stripped-down guitar-and-vocal version, the song is transformed in a way that the members of Devo probably never imagined. ▼

human forms displayed on vertical pedestals like a forest. But upon closer inspection, the work of the Oakland ceramic artist, who has developed a cultlike following, reveals the finesse of her technique. Rich glazes and lustres compete for attention with layers of paint and patches of gilding on the surfaces of her human forms. These range from haunting, Buddha-like feet and hands to a larger-than-life seated figure, "Shy Girl," who peers over her shoulder in a classic contrapposto stance from the corner of the gallery. The show closes this Saturday, December 16.

Also in the 3-D realm is the thoughtful installation of sculptures by Ulrike Palmbach, through December 23 at Stephen Wirtz Gallery (49 Geary, Third Floor). As in the clay works of Gregor, the hand of the artist is much in evidence here in crocheted pieces like "Milk and Honey." Two enor-

mously bulbous forms hang from a wooden hanger, suggesting either breasts and/or testicles. The artist laughed at the sexual allusion, which she sees as inevitable. But her original inspiration, she told me at the First Thursday reception, were the overladen sacks of groceries carried by Mission Street housewives, the German-born artist's slyly ironic view of America, the land of milk and honey. Her preparatory drawings complement the installation of the sculptures, among them the breathtaking "Pause." At first glance, what appears to be clear resin embeds two rocks at the bottom of two metal buckets, while another rock is suspended on the surface of a third bucket, at the moment before submersion. It is a split-second photograph come to life at the moment of... pause. The "water" is, in fact, glass, which adds another dimension of fragility to the sculpture. ▼

Thomas' careful priming.

Local favorite, pianist Garrick Ohlsson occupied the entire second half of the bill with his hearty man's performance of the Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major, Opus 83 by Brahms. This is a monumental work, and Ohlsson, with his imposing presence, strong touch and extrovert interpretation, was a perfect match. He blazed his way through even the most thickly orchestrated patches, never fading to obscurity. It was not that he lacks poetic insight—the slow movement was testament to that—but that he can actually impose some of his own personality on a score that sounds so essentially like the composer.

It was good to have MTT back again, too. The pretty seasonal decorations at Davies Hall appropriately coincide with his return. This week, countertenor David Daniels performs, with the maestro, some interesting music of Ravel and Berlioz. The concert will also include Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2. ▼



Pianist Garrick Ohlsson

summation, and the guideposts supplied by the conductor at the top certainly helped everyone's comprehension. Holloway was in attendance, and while he didn't show it, he must have been somewhat surprised at the crowd's rowdy acceptance of his densely written showpiece. I suspect much of the credit was due to Tilson

## Backstage

◀ page 31

This year, A Karen Carpenter Christmas will run Dec. 19-29. For more information call 826-5750.

### Kosher comedy

Another of San Francisco's quirky holiday traditions is the Kung Pao Kosher Comedy program that mixes Jewish comedy with Chinese food and is stirred up by its lesbian creator.



Comic Marc Maron

Former Bay Area comic Marc Maron headlines this year's performances. Maron has starred in his own HBO special and recently garnered kind words from *The New York Times* for his off-Broadway show *Jerusalem Syndrome*. Also on the bill are comedian/writer Page Hurwitz, and "science-flavored stand-up comic" Brian Malow.

Local lesbian comic Lisa Geduldig, who founded Kung Pao Kosher Comedy eight years ago, will again emcee the event, taking place on Dec. 23 at the Herbst Theatre and on Dec. 24-25 at the New Asia Restaurant. For more information call 552-3737.

### It's about time

*Corpus Christi* has finally piqued a demonstration at the New Conservatory Theatre, where Terrence McNally's "gay Jesus" play has been running since Oct. 11. Two young men paraded outside the theater prior to the Dec. 2 matinee with banners that read, "Turn to Jesus or Burn in Hell" and "Got AIDS Yet? = Gay," along with some Bible verses. NCTC had seemed almost disappointed that nothing like the protests that greeted the New York production materialized here, and sent out word of its two-man to-do.

### Stone age

Sharon Stone wants to star in *The Constant Wife* at American Conservatory Theatre, and the theatre wants to make it happen.

A mailer went out from the theater's marketing department to current subscribers, reporting that the final slot in the current season would be filled by *The Constant Wife*, with Stone playing the title role in W. Somerset Maugham's 1927 play about a wife who takes revenge on her unfaithful husband. But that's not going to happen.

According to a spokeswoman for the theatre, Robert Downey Jr.'s recent arrest on drug charges has complicated the shooting schedule of *Basic Instinct 2*, in which Stone will return to her breakthrough role. A report in the Dec. 8 edition of the *Chronicle* that Stone and *The Constant Wife* would open the 2001-2002 season is premature, according to ACT spokeswoman Karen O'Brien. (Stone's husband, Phil Bronstein, is the executive editor of the new *Hearts Chronicle*.)

"We are committed to doing the play with Sharon Stone," O'Brien said. "The only question is when." Whenever it happens, ACT artistic director Carey Perloff is expected to be at the helm. ▼

## Glass and nature

◀ page 38

godly lonely/ in its patina of fumes/ and ash?

"Gorgeous scrap heap/ where no one lives,/ or hardly anyone./ Did you have to burn/ so harshly bright/ Wasn't the world/ ruin enough?"

As for the photographs of the glass, one might suspect that they could be a disruption of, or a distraction from the text. But in fact, the effect is to make one read the poem more slowly and to savor it in small, bite-sized pieces. And anyway, taken at very close range and focusing on only an edge or

base or handle rather than on a piece as a whole, the photographic images provide something more like a dreamy, surrealistic backdrop than a realistic representation of a specific object.

Of the two books, then, Doty's is clearly the one to buy if you have a limited budget and cannot afford both. Yet Oliver's book, despite the qualms I've expressed, is not without its merits and charms, and both books would make thoughtful presents for someone you cherish, suffused as each of them is with a sense of love and of awe for the world, its creatures, and the things of their making. ▼

## SF Symphony

◀ page 35

it advisable to attend the pre-concert lecture two years ago. Holloway was a charming and articulate champion of his own writing; still, MTT proved even better with his "Older People's Concerts" approach last week.

The talented Brit is hardly breaking much new ground with his challenging scores, but the Third Concerto earns praise for truly testing the entire orchestra's limits and giving all the musicians in each section a real chance to shine. It's a concerto for orchestra, indeed, and the players enthusiastically responded to MTT's strong hand.

There are some lovely touches throughout the long score, and there are some annoying ones, too, though the audience found the inclusion of a particularly loud siren more amusing than I did. The movements are seamless, but the closing part is a delightful

## Male nudes

◀ page 39

images. These are hardly "dream people in a dream world where nothing leads anywhere." These images have become a lingua franca of imagined gay excess and decadence. But whether Childers' humid daydreams have affected our culture for good or bad is a debate for another time. Right now, *Hollywood Voyeur* is a fabulous romp through Childers' career, the most fun I've had with a photography collection since I got the Colt photo set of — well, never mind. It's hard to pick a favorite in this book, but as I've got a thing for twins, I'd like to thank Mr. Childers for the leather briefs and fishnet stockings with which he releases Stephen Underhill's chunky blonde *Twins* from their previous Wonderbread wrappings.

### Firm stance

If you find the success of a

book of male nudes is dependent on the number or quality of the erections it depicts, then *20 Men* by a German photographer whimsically named Kingdome 19 is the book of the year.

Kingdome 19 reassures us that his work is Art by tinting his monochromes, distressing and manipulating the negatives, and applying overlays of text. Although I'm firmly of the school that thinks an erection is Art, period, the results here are wondrously successful for all the effort. In these photos, in which lean, young, tattooed and distinctly European-looking men relate with a serene assurance to their firm cocks, cradling it prayerfully in their palm, casually framing it with their limbs in a dispassionate still life, or merely providing a vertical plane with their flat bodies for it to bisect with its architectural certitude, Kingdome 19 finds a rare level of contemplation in the wonder of the male body at its most beautiful moment. ▼



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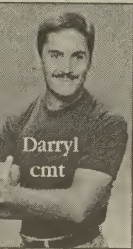
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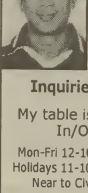
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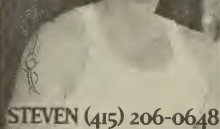
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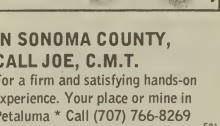
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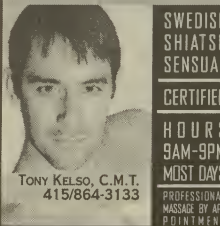


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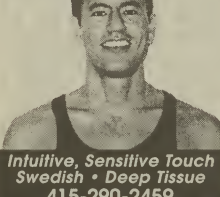
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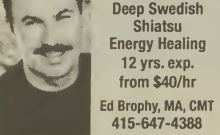
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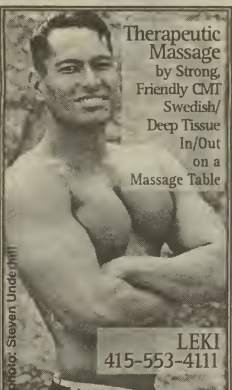
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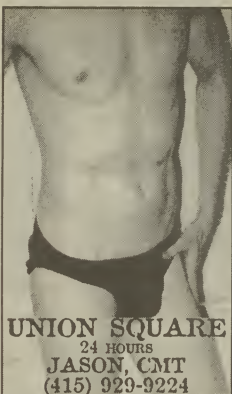
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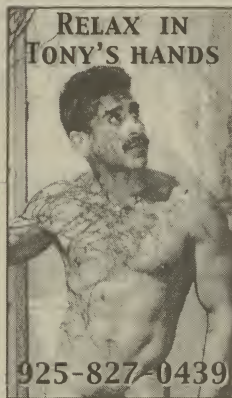
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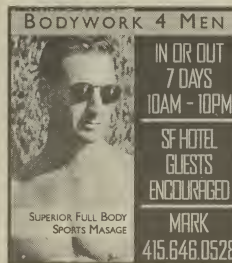
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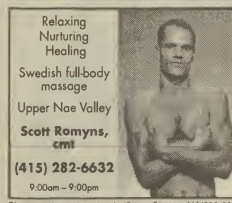
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New independent therapist Jeff  
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**NAKED RUB & MORE**  
I give a very hot & nasty Body  
Rub. Let me rub-U-the-erotic way  
Mutual touch, yes. Scott 921-1550

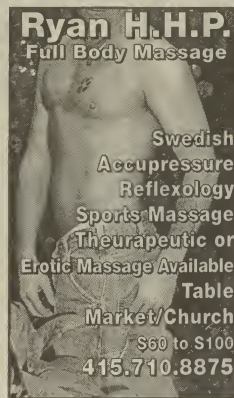
Deep Tissue, Swedish, Full-body erotic  
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1", 190, handsome. \$55in. (415) 845-4807

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Reflexology  
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Therapeutic or  
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**Expert CMT**  
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handsome  
combination  
swedish &  
erotic massage  
on table  
strong,  
sensitive  
hands  
Jeff  
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Goodlooking,  
Friendly, Masculine,  
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Relaxing, healing massage  
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BODYWORK FOR MEN**  
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of massage by two men simultaneous-  
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pointment only for men. Pablo and  
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shape guys with handsome muscular  
hung Italian. I offer firm erotic touch  
Ass n Ball shaves included. Come for  
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yourself to an erotic massage by Ray  
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**BEAUTIFUL BOY**  
Loving, smooth, toned and friendly  
gives full-body sensual massage  
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Lay back and enjoy erotic, nude  
**MASSAGE IN MARIN**  
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Professional, erotic massage by  
Cajun/Italian ex-football jock.  
Convenient E. Bay location. \$50/In  
\$80/Out. Peter 510-886-5766  
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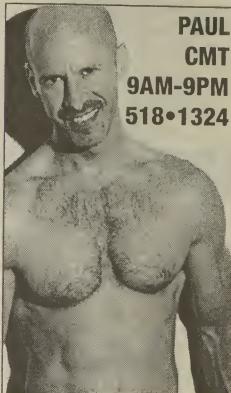
Friendly pro w/talented, affectionate  
hands, will honor your body+bliss  
you with bliss w/slow, sensual touch,  
masculine nurturing, relaxed eroti-  
cism and solid massage. \$50. Tom  
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In & Out Calls, Hotels too!  
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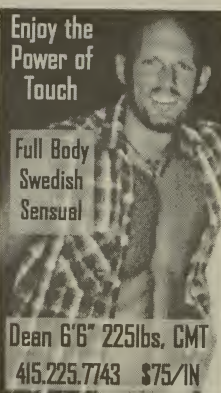


## PERSONALS

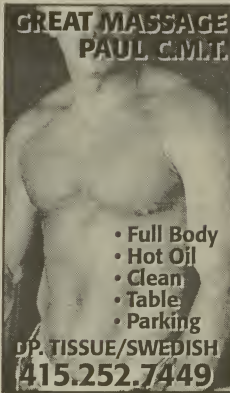
## MASSAGE



**PAUL CMT**  
9AM-9PM  
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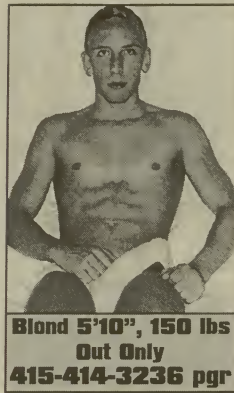


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Full Body Swedish Sensual  
Dean 6'6" 225lbs, CMT  
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• Full Body  
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• Clean  
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## MODEL/ESCORTS



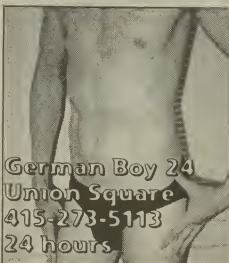
Blond 5'10", 150 lbs  
Out Only  
415-414-3236 pgr



**HORSE HUNG FARMBOY**  
6'3 Butch Top In/Out  
STEVE (415) 313-4041



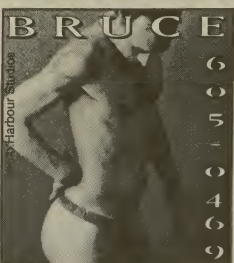
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Wade CMT 415-420-8096  
<http://members.aol.com/rubst>



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Union Square  
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24 hours




Swedish Massage  
487-0568



**BRUCE**  
6'6" 165 lbs  
415-414-3236



**TOM 415-256-6743**  
outcalls sf bay area  
email: TomBuStoneXXX@aol.com



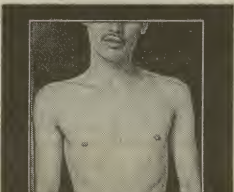
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WITH HANDSOME ATHLETE  
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Swedish & Deep Tissue  
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Sensual Nude Massage Mario Hot Latin Boy 22yr old 5'4" 135 Lbs gorgeous. \$60/hr. 251-0902 Nice

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Incredible massage by tall Texas charmer 6'6", 195#, 60/In 80/Out Attractive • Attentive • Affectionate  
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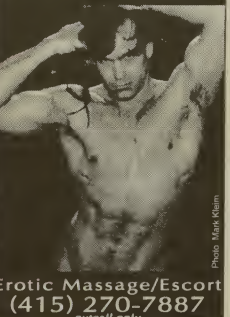
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What Men Crave: Light Erotic Touch/Hot Nudist/346-4966/Ken \$80

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**CUTE ASIAN BOY**

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BB Bottom In/Marin, Out/Bay Area Ted\* (415) 459-3488

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Handsome hung Italian 34, 6', 160  
**CHOKE ON THIS!**

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**BORN TO SERVE MEN**  
HOT, HUNGRY, HORNY BOTTOM Alek, 242-4230, 24hrs. in/out

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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS TAKING HIS TIME. TALL & BUILT. FULL PLAYROOM.  
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**20YO BLONDE**  
6ft 165 Smooth Gym built and beautifully hung Matt pgr: 560-7456

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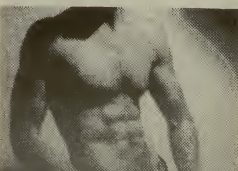
**LEATHER/SM/FANTASY**  
40yo top 6'1", 195# 7"uncut, flattop Gd lking into bondage, s/m, w/s, f/f, cbt, violet wand, toys, boots. Beginner? Have playspace & equip. Scott(415)414-1132Pg# In or Out

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## MODEL/ESCORTS



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Muscular 37 6'4" 200#  
Auburn Blond, Lightly Tanned  
Hung \$100 SEAN 280-5062



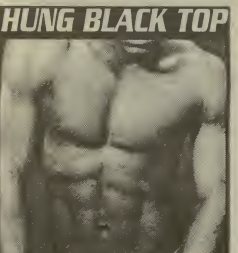
**BOTTOM WANTED**  
**BIG THICK JUICY TOOL**  
VINCENT 415.431.6253 \$110



**8X7**  
6'1"  
240#

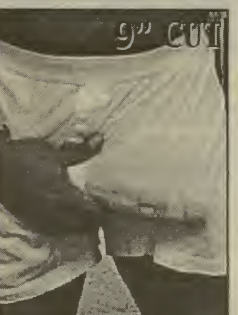
**MACK**

www.MACKsf.com  
**227-7448**



**HUNG BLACK TOP**

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24 HOURS • IN/OUT



**9" CUT**

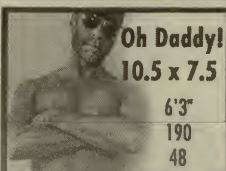
**HOT BLACK MEAT**  
**925-312-6003**

**SEXY BI STUD 4 HIRE**  
30y/o, TOTAL TOP, MASCULINE  
Great bod, confident, hung & hot  
5'9", 150#, buzzcut, goatee & fun  
Into uniforms, role-play, luv to  
kick back 4 service- great rate  
In/out-24hrs-pgr. 415-449-4686  
Quick and friendly response.

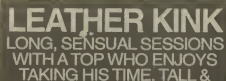
6'2" very handsome, very well hung,  
muscular 27. Strictly kick back oral  
top \$140 (415) 377-4304

Erotic massage by handsome  
gentle daddy age 45 well hung  
\$60 outcalls only Dave 503-1629


Get Naked/Relax/ Hug/ Release/ Oral  
8" Nudist/ 346-4966/ Ken/ \$80



**Oh Daddy!**  
**10.5 x 7.5**  
6'3"  
190  
48  
www.sfhungdad.com  
VN/PGR  
(415) 224-9382

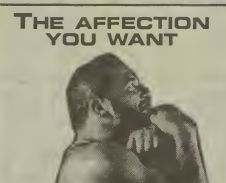


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WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS  
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**RICK 431-0959**



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expert in:  
**CBT, TT, BONDAGE**  
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YOU WANT

**ON A 5'11", 225LBS, AGGRESSIVE,**  
**RAW MUSCLEBEAR**  
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Dark blonde hair  
hazel eyes  
washboard stomach  
27" waist • versatile  
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6'2", 175, cute, smooth, runners  
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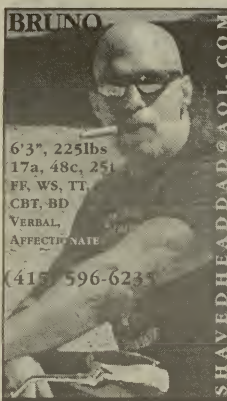
do! punq Ruck delux rub/scene  
in SanFranc call MAN-MAXT

**YES SIR!!**  
Musclr bottom eager to serve  
Take control pg Nick 709-1467

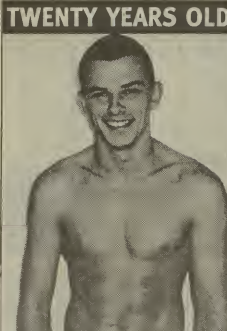
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Well hung. Gives erotic, sensual  
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Smooth, lean leather top, sling  
FF/ SM/ BD/ WS, slave training, 32  
gives it like you need it.  
**PAGE JACK- 790-3312**

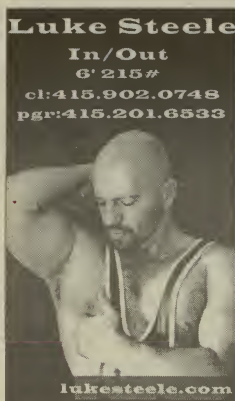
**2 HOT HUNG TOP GUYS**  
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pg. David 790-0079

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Slender built, handsome, well  
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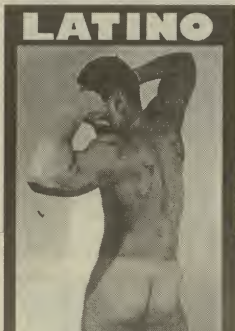
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31 y/o hairy butt WM 5'7", clean  
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Hot extremely hung 24yr boy/stud  
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Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs  
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23yo gorgeous exotic expert top  
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playful/ nice/ nasty hot tubs/ out  
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Sexy blond jock with w/shrdb abs &  
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Tanned, masculine, & very  
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Kicks back for service/oral \*24hrs.  
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Big fat tool. 790-6423 or 552-2370

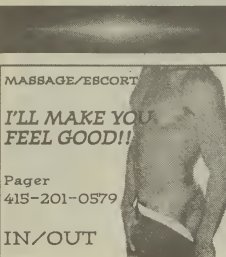
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tongue, \$85.00. Out only, Hotels ok  
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Massage n play fir gym goers n  
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6'2", 185, strong, gymtuned  
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**SHVD HEAD STUD**  
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FUN, PLAYFUL, NO ATTITUDE  
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6', 190#, hung, hairy 46" chest,  
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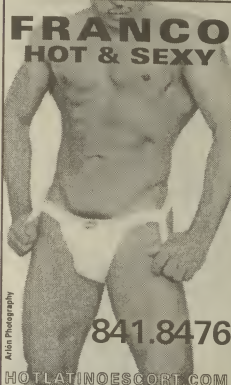
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From So Cal here 12/16-12/20  
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200lb hunk likes to kick  
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Italian stud 6', 175lbs sensual  
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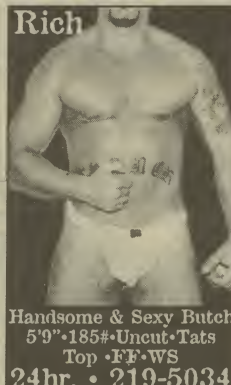
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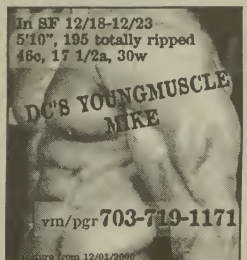
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5'10", 195 totally ripped  
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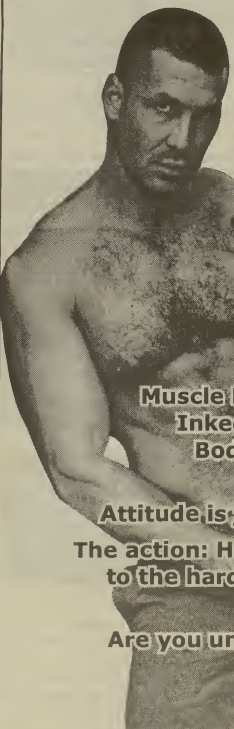
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Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs

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Call Sam: 771 2154 for service!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:  
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Are you hung? Horny WM, under 27? Tall, lean, discreet Bi WM is into sucking/69/maybe more! 753-1004

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 1st runner-up & Leather Fellowship  
 Good luck Peter at IML next May.

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 "you get the picture"  
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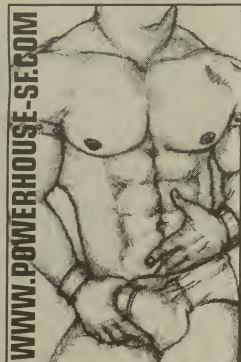
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Name

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Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

Amount Enclosed

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